

Dear Parent/Carer,

First of all I would like to thank all staff and students who made our wonderful Open Evening such a success. The evening was extremely busy with over 600 visiting families. It has been a real pleasure to receive so much positive feedback about our school. It is truly a fantastic event and shows what a unique and special place BFS is.

This evening we will be looking forward to seeing Year 7 with their parents and carers for the FoBFS Year 7 BBQ. This annual event is a lovely opportunity for parents of Year 7 to explore the school, have fun doing a quiz and meet their child's friends. I do hope Year 7 families will pop along; rain never stops us from having a BBQ at BFS!

In addition, FoBFS will be holding their annual general meeting on Thursday 10 October at 7pm. All parents and carers are welcome and encouraged to come along. At this meeting I plan to share my plans for the future at BFS with FoBFS, so it would be lovely to see as many parents and carers there as possible.

Finally I do hope you enjoy the newsletter and I thank you for your continued support.

*Mrs S King
Headteacher*

Pearson Edexcel English Visit

Last Friday, a group of BFS students were invited to Pearson UK Headquarters in London to further the global company's thinking about the importance of diversity in the English curriculum at GCSE. In response to national student and teacher feedback around the lack of diversity of British texts at KS4, the exam board Edexcel have just released two new novels, two new plays and a new poetry collection to their GCSE English Literature text list. There has been some discussion of this in the wider media and our students were asked to give their views.

The students were an absolute credit to the school, speaking eloquently and thoughtfully throughout the day. Upon arrival at the Pearson building (with its panoramic views over the South Bank) we were thrown straight into the action with a round-table discussion. This was chaired by Ashish from Pearson's Diversity & Inclusion wing, and was simultaneously filmed, audio recorded, and taken down in shorthand by three different people (for distribution across Pearson's 220,000 employees!). Five students, Pearson staff and two BFS staff, grappled with ideas around the true meaning of diversity within literature and whether or not this is important within education, in a fast-paced and wide-ranging debate. Moreover, students managed to provide feedback on texts which I had given to them only a few days previously, and comment on their potential in the national GCSE - a serious responsibility indeed.

After a business lunch, students were whisked away for individual filming sessions, where they had to present their thoughts directly to the camera, behind which stood two technical staff and Pearson's Head of English, Drama and Languages... no pressure! They rose magnificently to this challenge, braving take after take in the quest for perfection, without their answer sounding overly rehearsed.

It was a thought-provoking day for all concerned, and we have been invited to attend a further conference in November where some of the authors of the literature texts will be present. Watch this space for updates on where our interviews finally end up, and some possible and exciting additions to the GCSE curriculum here at BFS...

*Mr Harris
Head of English*



Pearson Edexcel English Visit—Student Voice

On Friday 20 September we embarked on our highly anticipated meeting at Pearson HQ, London. With Mr Harris, Ms Menon, Charlie from 11TG2, Kadija from 10TG4 and Justus from 10TG6 in tow, we only knew a handful of things about what lay ahead: we would avidly discuss diversity in Literature, we would talk about the current curriculum offered for GCSE and, perhaps most excitingly of all, we would be offered lunch free of charge!

Despite our mounting apprehension during our travels, we arrived swiftly and eagerly at the lavish HQ where we were greeted by Liz and Katy who led us to the conference room. After a flurried exchange of handshakes and beaming smiles with the diligent workers of Pearson, we took our seats and began what turned out to be one of the most inspiring talks of our educational careers.

Surrounded by some of the most influential people at the company, the 5 of us engaged in a discussion where no topic was off limits: delving into what diversity means to each of us; how social media is both positively and negatively impacting the society we live in today; how we can promote and provoke more enjoyment from Literature in schools; what the future of Literature looks like and what we think should be altered about the current GCSE English Literature course.

We each took the spotlight at some point with some of the key moments including:

- Molly's contribution, 'Perhaps the people who do not believe they enjoy reading, simply haven't found the right book yet—which is why diversity in literature is so important to have - to be able to offer these sceptics more variety and avenues to explore literature.'
- Charlie's input on the current GCSE texts, 'To students, these books are now seen as the pinnacle of Literature. That needs to change. They need to see the diversity of what's beyond that.'
- Eleanor's comments on social media, 'While the power that social media has provided is undeniable, it is becoming fashionable to back a cause on a platform, rather than to enact change in real life'.

One staff member even claimed we had inspired her to pick up her book again after a 2 month hiatus: 'You have reminded me of the joys of books and how intelligent young people can be'.

After our noteworthy discussion, we ate lunch, before diving into the afternoon's interview recordings, where we were each asked three questions: What is diversity to you? How is diversity important in literature? What do you think of the new texts? Despite various mishaps and takes, we each answered the questions with the wealth of knowledge we gained through the discussion earlier on in the day and left the building inspired, and thoroughly motivated, as we swung our goody bags of Pearson treats in the air.

It is difficult to sum up all that we have learnt, but ultimately we have come away realising the power we have as teenagers to implement change. We have all also developed our own definition of diversity in literature. To us, it is about inclusivity - that all students have the opportunity to see themselves and learn about each other in what they read... Plus of course, understanding, through a diverse curriculum, that great British writers don't all look like Shakespeare!

As for the new books, I think we speak for all of us when we say that we hope BFS adopts the changes in the exam board offer to curriculum and supports teaching the new texts that we have all very much enjoyed reading.

We cannot thank Pearson enough for the opportunity, the dedicated staff who really listened to our viewpoints and the amazing hospitality we experienced.

By Molly (12TG2) and Eleanor (12TG2)



Careers advice at Bristol Free School

We are very excited about the new academic year and will be launching a number of career opportunities for all students at Bristol Free School. We are constantly looking to develop our relationships with businesses in the local area, so if your business is willing to work with Bristol Free School such as giving talks to students, supporting in our careers fair or being involved in mock interviews, then please get in touch with Mr Parry via the main school office.

There is now a lot of information on the school website, so please look at the [careers](#) section. This will be updated throughout the course of the year and there are some useful website links and guidance to help you support your child in the ever-changing job market.

Careerpilot is a very useful website that will be introduced to all students at Bristol Free School through various points of the academic year. Please see below for further information.

Careerpilot

Get the information you need to help your child make the right choices at 14, 16 and 18 through the [Careerpilot](#) website, aimed at young people, and the [Parent Zone](#), aimed at parents and carers.

Careerpilot is a free website helping 13–19 year olds in the South of England plan their future study and work and has a lot of useful information for young people and parents.

The Careerpilot Parent Zone can help you as a parent/carer get answers to the career questions you want to ask, including:

- Choices at 14, 16 and 18;
- Further Education College;
- Apprenticeships and Traineeships;
- Higher Education (including HE provided at local colleges);
- Job sectors and growth;
- Funding and support.

Walking Home—a reminder

With the nights drawing in, we would like to remind parents and students about the importance of keeping safe on the way home from school, particularly if you are attending an after school club or event.

Where possible, students should not walk home alone. They should keep to well-lit areas and avoid short cuts through local parks or similar after dark. If there are any changes of plan, students should let their parents know as soon as possible.

If they do not have access to a mobile, phone calls can be made from student services at the end of the school day.

Year 11 Curriculum Evening

The rescheduled Y11 Curriculum Evening will take place on Thursday 3 October from 6:30pm -7:30pm.

This will provide an opportunity for senior staff to detail the year outline for Year 11, discuss the examination process and provide strategies for parents to support their child. The Heads of English, maths and science will also be on hand to provide information the exams process for their subjects.

All Year 11 parents are invited to this event.

Please note that the Year 10 Curriculum Evening will now follow at a later date, to be arranged.

Fixture report

Year 10 Rugby vs Castle School

On Wednesday, the Year 10 Rugby team travelled to Thornbury, to play Castle School in the Elite Schools' Rugby Competition. After arriving late due to transport being delayed, the team got stuck in early and seamlessly scored two early tries playing up the slope, demonstrating some exceptional ball handling and fantastic off-loading. The Year 10s also defended brilliantly with Castle using the slope of the pitch and their bigger forwards to eventually get over the line to make the half time score 17-to BFS.

In the second half, with BFS now playing down the slope, we started to play some beautiful rugby. Off-loads came from all over the pitch, keeping the ball alive and very much reminiscent of the Welsh rugby team when they won the grand slam. It was champagne rugby in the sun! Every single player in the team performed exceptionally and were very graceful in their victory, finishing the game a spectacular 49-7.

Mr Walker



Clubs for Term 1 and 2

Please see the website for the fantastic clubs offering for Term 1 and 2.

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

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

Attendance

In anticipation of cold and flu season, please be sure to read our guidelines and useful information about [attendance](#) on our website.

The month ahead

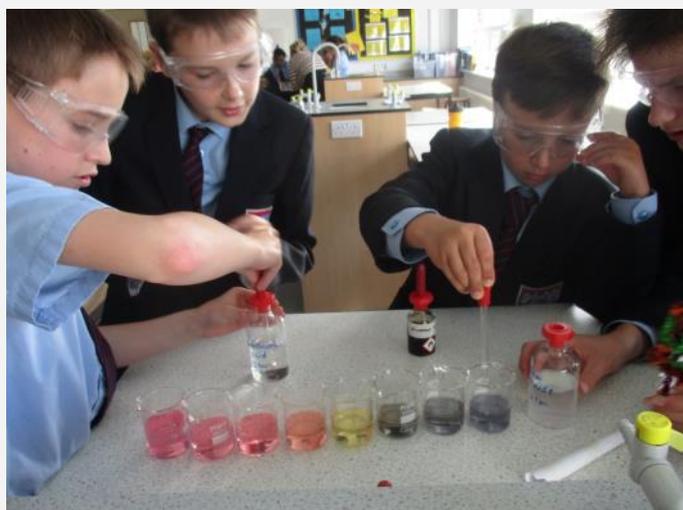
30/09/2019	OPEN AFTERNOON
01/10/2019	Y10&11 girls' netball vs Blaise High, home
02/10/2019	Y12 University and Apprenticeship Fair at Ashton Gate
03/10/2019	Y11 GCSE Curriculum Evening Y10 Bristol Schools' Rugby Festival
04/10/2019	
05/10/2019	
06/10/2019	
07/10/2019	A Level Geography Field Trip
08/10/2019	A Level Geography Field Trip Y10&11 girls' netball vs Oasis Brightstowe, home
09/10/2019	A Level Geography Field Trip Y10&12 Equal Engineers Careers Fair, 11:15am-5pm Y11 Netball Festival at Clifton College Y9 Bristol Schools' Rugby Festival
10/10/2019	A Level Geography Field Trip Amazon Get into IT Bootcamp (Y8) Y7, 8 & 9 girls' netball vs Blaise High, away FoBFS AGM, 7pm
11/10/2019	A Level Geography Field Trip
12/10/2019	
13/10/2019	
14/10/2019	SCS Governors Meeting Y9&10 boys' rugby vs Cathedral School, away
15/10/2019	
16/10/2019	Y8 Bristol Schools' Rugby Festival Y10 Netball Festival at Clifton College
17/10/2019	Y7, 8 & 9 girls' netball vs Oasis Brightstowe, away Y9&10 boys' rugby vs SMRT, away
18/10/2019	Inset Day - SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS
19/10/2019	
20/10/2019	
21/10/2019	
22/10/2019	Year 7 to Clifton College - Team Building Activities Y7&8 girls' netball vs St Bede's, away
23/10/2019	Year 7 to Clifton College - Team Building Activities Year 9 Netball Festival at Clifton College
24/10/2019	Year 7 to Clifton College - Team Building Activities Y12 Settling in Evening 4pm - 7pm DofE Parents' Meeting, 6pm, Drama Hall
25/10/2019	Sixth Form Bursary Application Deadline
26/10/2019	
27/10/2019	

Science Club

Science Club is back with a bang this year, spellbinding us with potions, herbology and care of magical creatures. We're having a magical time! Last week we were sorted in to houses, each representing the BFS core values. We chose our wands (or rather the wands chose the wizard!) and we were ready for our first spells, reminiscent of Hogwarts itself!

Miss Board showed us how to conjure a magical black snake and then we tried to make our own smaller snakelets come to life—including some more advanced witches encouraging them in parseltongue. Everyone was successful, checking off our O.W.L in Care of Magical Creatures. This week we tried our hands at Severus Snape's favourite lesson, Potions. After watching an enchanting demonstration from Miss Smith we learned how to use our exceptional lab skills to create the perfect pH rainbow. All houses got there in the end, but the Werewolves were triumphant using their house motto of 'commitment' to produce the pH spectrum. Which House will prove to be the best at next week's lesson, Charms? Get practicing the chant of 'Colovaria'....

Miss Board



Concorde Drive—safe parking

Please be reminded to not park near the school gates, on yellow lines or on pavements. Doing this presents a very serious risk to our students.

Concorde Drive gets very busy at the start and end of the day and awareness of this is crucial. If possible, please park elsewhere and encourage your child to walk a short distance.

FoBFS AGM—10 October

FoBFS is holding its AGM on Thursday 10 October at 7pm in the Sixth Form Common Room.

We look forward to seeing you to hear about what we do to raise money for the school. It's also a way to meet parents across all ages of the school—something that can be difficult in secondary school! All help and support is very much appreciated as without it we will not be able to raise funds that help all our children. If you cannot attend but have any questions or would like to help please email fobfs@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.

Would you like to find out how we raise funds for those 'extras' that hugely benefit our children?

Would you like to meet other parents at your child's school?

Would you like to have your say?

JOIN US!

FRIENDS OF BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL



FoBFS



AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 10th October 2019
at **7pm** in the **6th Form Common Room**



Rotary **YOUNG** **PHOTOGRAPHER** **COMPETITION**



Calling all young photographers

Express yourself by putting your photography skills to the test at the annual Rotary Young Photographer competition.

To enter, contact: jonathanbolgar@blueyonder.co.uk

Rotary Club: CLIFTON

Download details and entry form at: www.cliftonrotary.org

Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland



Speak to Mrs Stokes for more information! The deadline is the end of term (25 October)