

Words from the Headteacher

The weeks in the lead-up to Christmas are typically busy and this week has been no exception. To add to the usual festivities and celebrations we have also managed to mirror what has been happening across Britain yesterday and run our own student-led mock election!

I must thank Mr MacBlain for leading the whole school election process alongside our charismatic Year 12 campaign leaders Theo, Jacob, Eleanor and Katie. I am also grateful to the diligent Year 13 politics students who manned the polling station all day and calculated all the student votes. BFS students and staff engaged really positively to the process and I hope taking part does make a lasting impression so that more young people use their democratic right to vote when they reach the age of 18. More details and the winner's acceptance speech are included in this newsletter and on our Twitter pages.



On Wednesday, Christmas celebrations started at BFS with our Christmas jumper day that raised money for the local Bristol Homeless charity *Caring at Christmas*. We had a wonderful colourful array of Christmas jumpers this year and Ann (our Catering Manager) and Chris (our Chef) made over 400 Christmas dinners on Wednesday. They were still smiling at the end of a popular and long lunchtime service! We are so lucky to have such a fantastic catering team at BFS who serve delicious, fresh healthy food every day. So on behalf of the school community, thank you to Ann and the team for your great meal service this year.



On Thursday, as well as the election we held, our 'Sixth Former for a Day' event which is designed to support Year 11 in deciding which A Level courses to study and see what life is like in the BFS Sixth Form. Thank you to Mr Walker, Ms Norton and all staff who ensured both the internal and external Year 11s had such a positive day.

On Monday our Year 11s will receive their mock results in tutor time. I know that many of them are nervous about opening their envelopes, but we have plenty of time to prepare and revisit areas which they need to improve upon. The Year 11 subject evening will be on Thursday 9 January (appointments are now open) so that is an ideal time to learn about subject areas to develop and any extra revision sessions that we will be running in the lead up to the summer exams.

This term our Sixth Form student leadership team have been working on the names for the new house system which we want to launch this year. A great deal of thought and work has gone into the research for this and after careful consideration we have decided to have houses that link to the natural world, yet still represent the city of Bristol. Many young people today care passionately about the environment, climate change and the importance of protecting the natural world, so naming our houses with this in mind feels very relevant to our student community. Next week all students will vote for which house names they prefer. The choices are Bristol Parks (Ashton, Blaise, Canford and Durdham) or Bristol rivers (Avon, Frome, Severn and Trym). The results will be announced in the Christmas final assembly.

Finally, remember that we still have another action-packed next week with a number of evening performances. It will be lovely to see you there to enjoy some festive celebrations. School closes at 12:30pm on Friday 20 December for a much deserved school holiday.

Mrs S King
Headteacher

Experiments with Liquid Nitrogen



Earlier in the year, we received a fantastic invitation from Badminton School, who are running a programme travelling far and wide with a big container of liquid nitrogen! A lucky group of Sixth Formers spent Thursday learning an educational presentation using the liquid nitrogen and very strong magnets and Friday presenting these experiments to groups of Key Stage 3 students.

We are incredibly grateful to Badminton for this brilliant opportunity and must congratulate Mya R, Abby F, Olivia G, Ahmed D and Esmé H on their fantastic presentations.



Subsea UK STEM Challenge

On Wednesday, 12 Year 9 students went to the National Composite Centre (NCC) in Emersons Green to take part in the regional heats of the Subsea UK STEM Challenge. All we knew about the challenge was that it would involve Lego Mindstorms and teamwork and the winning team would be flown to Aberdeen to take part in the Grand Final! Everyone was very excited.



The students were put into two teams and after an introduction from the sponsors, Subsea UK, the challenge launched. Roles were allocated and both teams got stuck in with plenty of ideas and enthusiasm, using all the skills recently developed in both Computer Science and DT, as well as bringing in essential numeracy and literacy skills needed for planning an effective pitch and memorable marketing strategy. During the morning, a TV crew from Bristol TV arrived and Elliott was chosen (nominated by Mrs Sherman!) to be interviewed and BFS students all feature in the 2 minute film which can be seen on Bristol TV channels, their website and on @BFS_CS Twitter feed! After lunch we all had a tour of the NCC and were lucky enough to be invited into a clean room by an engineer to see a giant, very expensive laser working with composites to create a part that might end up in space! Towards the end of the tour, the machine which could create a component in around 10 minutes (but took 2-3 days to set up the bobbins -over 250 of them!) and its programming was working and we saw it action. When we got back to the room, it was time for the

itches! Both of our teams showed true BFS spirit and all got involved with every aspect of the challenge and presented eloquently and well explained.

After a short period of deliberation by the judges, the winners were announced....Team 1 from Bristol Free School won and are going to Aberdeen in March 2020! Congratulations to Madi, James, Sophie, Charles, Tom and Noah! We are immensely proud of both teams and Team 2 deserves a massive well done too - Elliott, Logan, Emily, Isabel, Ben and Ayomide. We all had an amazing day and it was an inspirational experience for all involved.

We are looking forward to the Grand Final! Please see our Twitter feed for more photos of the day and a link to the film from Bristol TV [@BFS_CS](#)



Mrs Sherman and Mrs Street

Mock Election

BFS's first general election drew to a close today at 1pm. All the votes had been cast and it was now time to announce the winner. With an impressive 913 students voting (86% turnout) it came down to the wire.

Despite winning the highest percentage of the popular vote, Eleanor and *Progress* finished in last place (this certainly warranting further discussion on the pros and cons of our current first-past-the-post voting system). In 3rd place was Katie and *Vision* with 9 seats and Jacob and his *Tomorrow* party coming a close 2nd with 11 seats.



However, in first place and as such the winner of BFS' first ever mock election, was Theo from the *Transform* party. Well done Theo, you gave an excellent acceptance speech honouring to uphold your manifesto pledges.



I would also like to say a big thank you to the Year 13 politics students who tirelessly worked all day, distributing ballot papers and counting the results.

Mr MacBlain

A message for Year 11

Dear Year 11,

You have all worked incredibly hard over the last few terms and we are really impressed at how much effort you have put into your mock examinations. It is really important that you take some time for yourselves over the festive break. Rest, relax and recuperate. Catch up on some Christmas movies, put your feet up and come back in January refreshed and ready to go.

Your teachers will not be setting you any work over the Christmas break so please ensure that you put your study notes away and have a well-deserved break. Students sitting BTEC exams in January of course need to balance this relaxation with revision.

Merry Christmas.

Mr MacBlain

Bristol Schools' Swimming Association Gala

Congratulations to our fantastic swimmers for their medals they received at the gala on Thursday 5 December!

James (Year 9) won the silver in the 50m breaststroke.

Ciara (Year 7) won the bronze in the 50m breaststroke.

Daniel (Year 7) won the bronze in 50m breaststroke.



Eco-Group Update

Under the guidance of Mr Green, We are a group of students informing the school about what is being done to become more eco friendly and informing the school of the actions which are being taken. We are raising awareness and driving change across the following ten areas; litter, biodiversity, water, transport, marine, healthy living, energy, waste, global citizenship and the school grounds. Watch this space to find out more!

Clubs for Term 3&4

The clubs for Term 3&4 will be shared next week.

Please note that there will be no clubs in the first week of Term 3.

Calendar

16/12/2019	Y11 Mock Results during tutor time Dynamics Choir at Southmead Hospital GCSE and A-Level Certificate Presentation Evening
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 LIVE LOUNGE at lunchtime
19/12/2019	Y11 NEA DT 'Making Day' Christmas Extravaganza
20/12/2019	UCAS Application Deadline (internal deadline) Sixth Form Application Deadline for September 2020
21/12/2019	
22/12/2019	
23/12/2019— 03/01/2020	Christmas Holidays
04/01/2020	
05/01/2020	
06/01/2020	Inset Day
07/01/2020	
08/01/2020	
09/01/2020	Y11 Subject Evening - (early closure)
10/01/2020	Y12 Bristol University Schools' Conference
11/01/2020	
12/01/2020	
13/01/2020	SCS Governors Meeting Sixth Form Interviews Primary School Dodgeball Tournament
14/01/2020	Year 10 Resilience Day (provided by Off the Record)
15/01/2020	Dr Green; A Level Prose Masterclass Sixth Form Interviews
16/01/2020	Y13 Subject Evening
17/01/2020	
18/01/2020	
19/01/2020	
20/01/2020	Sixth Form Interviews
21/01/2020	GCSE Set Works Concert, Victoria Rooms
22/01/2020	Sixth Form Interviews
23/01/2020	Y9 Options Fayre 6pm - 7:30pm
24/01/2020	Y10 Chinese Cookery School Workshop
25/01/2020	
26/01/2020	
27/01/2020	
28/01/2020	Y8 & 9 Winter Games
29/01/2020	Y12 University Aspirations Evening
30/01/2020	Maths Inspiration Trip
31/01/2020	Y9 Options Taster Day

Seasons Greetings

Well done to Martha Holden in Year 7 for her wonderful Christmas card design.

Mrs King will enjoy sending these to our local community.



Wales vs Barbarians

Caleb in Year 10 was lucky to receive tickets to the Welsh rugby game donated by a mystery teacher, and he wrote the match report below by way of a thank you...

Before the game started, the two teams stood in a line, shoulder to shoulder, waiting for the national anthems. Then when *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* started, over 60,000 Welsh fans sang out at the top of their lungs. It was going to be a tough game, as not only was it Wayne Pivac's first game in charge of Wales, the Barbarians were being coached by Warren Gatland who had coached Wales for the last 12 years and had a gate outside the Principality named after him. Wales were ahead after 6 minutes of playing and scored a few more points so the first half finished at 19-7 after another 2 tries from Wales. The second half started off in Wales' favour and after scoring a few more tries they lead 33-7 by the 50th minute. However, in the 51st minute, a few tears were shed by players and fans as Rory Best left the pitch on his last ever game of rugby. After that point, we saw a big come back from the Barbarians, but Wales managed to keep the lead and won the game 43-33.

Friends of Bristol Free School



The Aims of FoBFS (PTA Constitution):

To help build the school community and advance the education of pupils in the school, in particular by:

- Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school
- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

2019-2020

We are delighted to support BFS with raising support and funds for their three main projects this academic year.

1. Social outdoor spaces 'The Tumps' = £15,000
2. House cups and display cabinet = £TBA
3. Eco-school status

How you can help

- Visit the Friends of Bristol Free School web link under 'About us' on the BFS website for news updates, events and relative links.
- Attend school and social events with your family and friends!
- Offer a skill.
- Volunteer 30 mins or more of your time to help FoBFS support events
- Join EasyFundraising and raise funds whilst shopping online.
- Make a donation.
- Sponsor an event.

 Friends of Bristol Free School

 @FOBFS

 fobfs@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

Friends of Bristol Free School

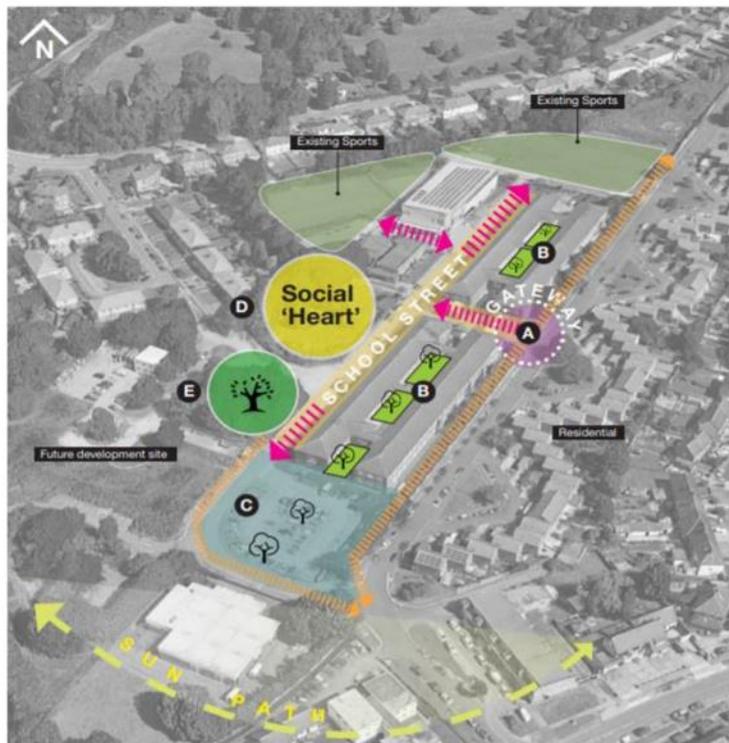


As the school grows more social space is needed. The school would like to develop the site, but it needs our support to do so.

Site-wide Opportunities

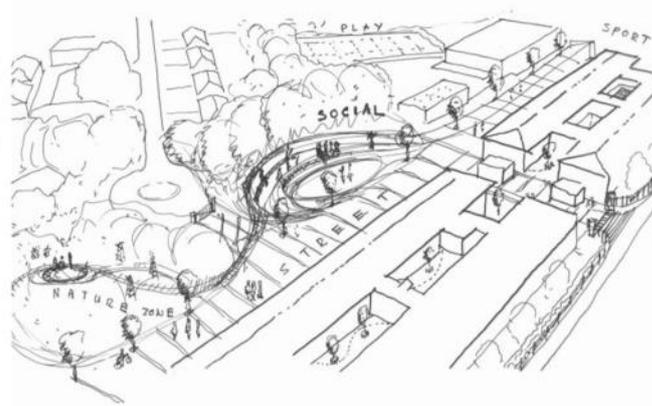
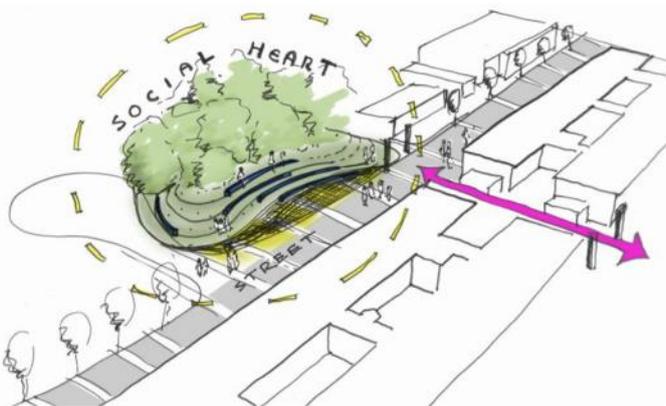
Key Priority areas

- A** 'Gateway' - explore opportunities to enhance the main entrance and school frontage to provide a strong sense of arrival to the school.
 - B** 'Courtyards' - explore opportunities to enhance the existing courtyards to bring colour, nature and enhanced outdoor break-out spaces.
 - C** 'Car park' - explore opportunities to provide tree planting, enhance the layout and provide new cycle facilities.
 - D** 'Social Heart' - Transform the existing green space to provide a central social meeting place, outdoor teaching area and exercise facility.
 - E** 'Nature Garden' - Enhance and make the existing green space more accessible to students and teachers alike. Provide a space for nature and learning.
- Key pedestrian routes for enhancement
 - Enhanced boundary opportunities
 - New Courtyard spaces with Artwork
 - 'Learning through landscape' outdoor teaching and learning space.



Early thoughts for the Wider School and Courtyards

Early thoughts for the Social Space



Social Space - The Tumps

£15,000 needed for Phase one.

To be completed ready for the **summer term 2020**.

FoBFS has already raised nearly half the money!

Friends of Bristol Free School

@FOBFS

fobfs@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

Friends of Bristol Free School



Skills needed

Are you able to support by offering your skills? We need some 'expert' advise and would appreciate you contacting us with any of the following:-

- Knowledge about charity status and the required administration. In addition, areas of funding we are now qualified to apply for.
- Knowledge of licencing laws.
- Experience of grant applications
- Knowledge of IT systems that could be used to organise volunteering slots, pay for ticket events etc.

Event organising

We are keen to organise more events for students, parents and carers. Do you have any ideas? Would you be interested in organising an event? Please email FoBFS.