

Words from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Governors

I would like to thank you all for your support and share with you what a delight it is to have a school full of students. Our students are a joy and we have all been impressed by their resilience and mature attitude since the start of term. Throughout the summer we completed extensive work preparing the site for your children's return and we are constantly reviewing and updating what we need to do.

You will have received a letter yesterday from me outlining our latest guidance to you in response to the government's campaign: Hands, Face, Space. Please read this letter carefully in preparation for Monday.

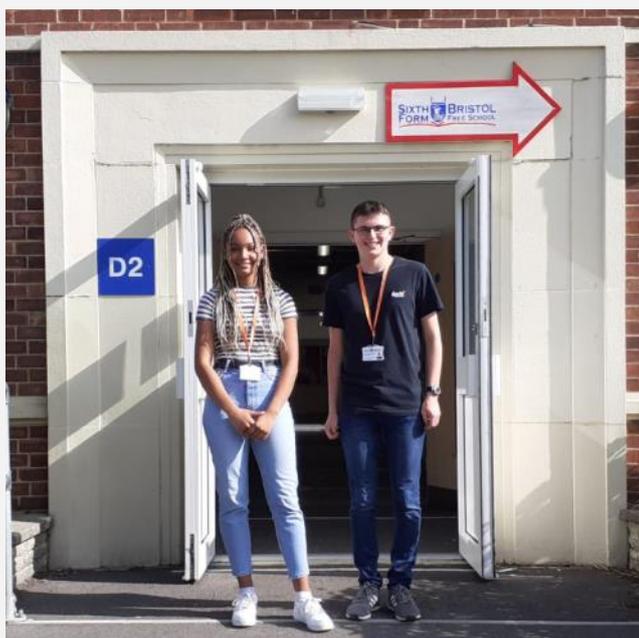
This week we appointed Jacob and Mya as our new Head Students for this academic year. The competition was very strong as usual and we have decided that Katie and Faith will be fantastic deputy Head Students to support wider engagement with the Student Council and the development of our new house system. Listening to these students' feedback and ideas for how we can develop the school further has been the highlight of my week! I am very much looking forward to working with them this year.

Yesterday we had a film producer in school to help us recreate our Open Day and Evening virtual events, which have been cancelled due to COVID restrictions. A great many staff and students were involved in the filming to capture the vibrancy of our school. A big thank you to everyone involved yesterday. The film will be live on our website on Thursday 24 September.

Parents will receive an email with an introduction to Class Charts and their parent access code this week. This replaces ShowMyHomework and has additional features which we will be introducing over the coming weeks. We hope you find this system a helpful point of contact between home and school.

At BFS we continue to strive to do our very best to support our young people so that they can fly and achieve their dreams.

Mrs S King
Headteacher



Head Students : Mya and Jacob

Key Diary Dates	
Thursday 24 September	Open Evening— REMOTE EVENT
Tuesday 29 September	Year 7 Meet the Tutor - REMOTE EVENT
Wednesday 30 September	Year 7 Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 1 October	Y10 & Y11 GCSE Curriculum Evening 'How to Support your Child - REMOTE EVENT
Friday 2 October	Year 7 BBQ - Cancelled

Introducing our Head Students



Katie, Deputy Head Student

"I'm looking forward to being a person younger students can rely on and come to when they need support or a friendly face."

Mya, Head Student

"In terms of my role as Head Student this year, I am most looking forward to working with students in the Sixth Form and Lower School to continue to develop the community feel of BFS. I hope to look at potential changes in the curriculum and wider learning to explore the issues highlighted by the 'Black Lives Matter' movement such as the teaching of black history and cultural appreciation."

Jacob, Head Student

"I am very excited to have been appointed as Head Student at Bristol Free School as this is a role that I always aspired to achieve. I am looking forward to working with students across all year groups and staff to further enhance opportunities and experiences the School has to offer."

Faith, Deputy Head Student

"My name is Faith and I am a Deputy Head Student. I'm really excited about this role and the prospect of implementing projects in BFS to show its true community spirit to those in school and in our surrounding community."

BFS students present to International Physics Conference



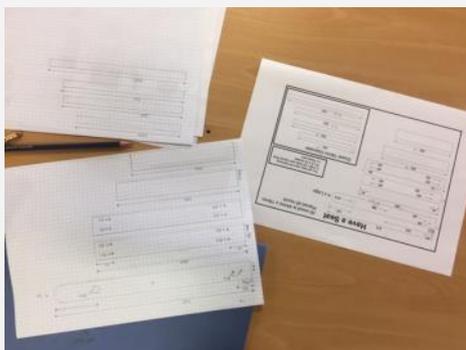
Following on from last year's collaboration to bring a liquid nitrogen and superconductors display to Key Stage 3, Year 12 students were asked to join forces with Badminton School to create a video for the International Conference of High Energy Physics (known as ICHEP 2020). Abby, Esme and Olivia rose to the challenge and produced a high quality video explaining the science behind colloids and how to make your own slime. Lockdown meant that all filming had to be done at home and on their phones, but despite this they created a superb video and had the conference producer asking them for filming tips!

The finished video along with work from Badminton School formed part of the CERN run Big Bang Stage where they featured alongside videos from astronauts and tech entrepreneurs. A huge well-done to Abby, Esme and Olivia. If you would like to see their video and learn how to make your own slime, it can be viewed here <http://bit.ly/ICHEPBFS>



Year 12 Product Design

This week in Year 12 Product Design students started to manufacture their timber and textile stool. Students started by creating a working scaled drawing of the individual pieces and then begun to mark out on their timber. The students have just 8 hours to make a stable and marketable product - we are excited to see what they produce! Ms Street and Miss Burman are delighted to have them back in school and participating in practical (COVID secure) work.





Covid-19 tests – Update from Public Health England

If you require a Covid-19 test please call **119** or visit the government website <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name> Please keep trying as appointments are released throughout the day.

NHS111 are **not** able to arrange or advise how to obtain a Covid-19 test. If you require clinical advice about your symptoms please go to NHS111 online or call 111.



Water Bottle Reminder

It is important to ensure that your child has a refillable water bottle with them in school at all times.

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.

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

Year 7 Meet the Tutor Virtual Event Tuesday 29 September

We are really looking forward to welcoming Year 7 parents to our first virtual Meet the Tutor event on Tuesday 29 September.

This event provides Year 7 parents with the opportunity to get to know the tutor and to discuss how well their child is settling in at BFS.

A letter with further information about how to book your virtual appointment will be emailed home by the end of next week.

Year 7 Flu Vaccinations

Please return your consent form by 23 September

The childhood flu programme has been extended by the government to include Year 7 students. The nasal spray flu vaccine will not only help protect your child against flu, the infection will also be less able to spread from them to their family, carers and the wider population.

Here at Bristol Free School, Year 7 Flu vaccinations will take place on Wednesday 30 September 2020. Students should return completed consent forms to their tutors during tutor period before Wednesday 23 September.

Parental Advice - Internet and Social Media

The internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge, especially if you feel that your children may have better technical skills than you do. However, children and young people still need support and guidance when it comes to managing their lives online and using the internet positively and safely. A simple and effective way to get involved with your children and their lives online is through discussion.

You could consider using these conversation starters to get the ball rolling:

1. Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
2. Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
3. Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.
4. Encourage them to help. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
5. Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online?

Social media provides opportunities for students to communicate with friends, family and with new friends/contacts. Most social media apps are designed for those students aged 13 plus where children can make immediate connection with contacts using an internet enabled device like a smart phone. Some sites like TikTok allow users to view and upload videos; whereas other apps allow you to share images and upload images (photos) that can be seen by the public or by selected groups depending on the security settings your child (or you) has/have chosen.

At Bristol Free School we take measures to educate all students about these possibilities through our curriculum but, of course, supervising students outside of school requires parents/carers to make their own arrangements, and for children and young people to make the right choices.

If you have a concern of any kind, please do not 'wait and see' or assume that someone else is dealing with it. Please contact the School immediately or look at the School's Online Safety section of the website for relevant information.

Find below other relevant websites:

- ThinkUKnow Resources for parents and young people.
- Parentinfo (from CEOP and Parent Zone) Expert information to help children and young people stay safe online.
- Childnet Works in partnership with others to help make the internet a safe place for children.
- Getsafeonline Practical advice on how to protect yourself, your computer and mobile devices against problems encountered online.
- Getnetwise Educates about the challenges and the problems presented by the internet and offers solutions.
- Theparentzone Information, help, advice and support and resources for parents.
- Internetmatters Information and support on protecting your children online.
- BroadbandSearch Guide to highlight the dangers children face – cyberbullying, sexual predators, and strategies in keeping your families safe online.



Get Safe Online
Free expert advice



ParentZone

Childnet
International

internet
matters.org

In partnership with



THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
CHELTENHAM
Literature
Festival

2 - 11 October, 2020
cheltenhamfestivals.com
#cheltlitfest

Cheltenham Literature Festival at School 2020—Digital and Free!

Schools and families everywhere are welcome to join this year's Cheltenham Literature Festival online. Events will be released daily in The Den on our new [festival website](#). Events will be streamed from **5 October** and then will be available for schools to watch on-demand - completely **FREE until 31 December**.



Explore the #cheltlitfest 2020 secondary school programme



Authors **Elizabeth Acevedo**, **Anthony McGowan** and **Annet Schaap** are among the inspiring authors at this year's Festival.

The Downs Loop

A proposal for a family friendly cycle route around the Downs



Paths to improve access for everyone, including people in wheelchairs, those pushing buggies and riding bikes.



Please help by filling out the short survey at
www.thedownslow.com

Public consultation runs until 30th September.

Help clean up our streets

Join the Great British September Clean

SOUTHMEAD

**11 - 27
SEPTEMBER 2020**

#GBSeptemberClean



**Mondays to Fridays at 10am each day
Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm each day**

**Litter picks will start at the top of Arn-
side.**

*** All welcome * Equipment provided * Social distancing ***