

Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope this newsletter finds you well.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

Today we celebrated International day for Women and Girls in Science. A big thank you to Ms Board for organising a fantastic STEM day for Y9 and taking over this week's newsletter with inspirational articles celebrating the contribution women and girls have made over the years to our growing understanding of science and technology. Here at BFS we are delighted with our high numbers of girls thriving in the sciences and going on to study all three sciences at A level and BTEC Applied Science.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

We also signposted Children's Mental Health week. BFS continues its commitment to this important aspect of health and wellbeing through great proactive work. A big thank you to Ms Townsend, Ms Hastings and Mrs Mills who are now celebrating their first anniversary as a new department within the school. In that year they have supported a wide range of young people and provided informative sessions to raise awareness of mental health and well-being.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ellie J, Rosie B, Sama T and Ava for coming fifth nationally in the CyberFirst Girls Competition – this is an amazing achievement as the competition was very fierce. A big thank to Mrs Ramanandani who supported. We are so proud of you all!

STUDENT PARLIAMENT

This week one of my highlights was chairing the Student Parliament. The General Manager for Innovate, our catering provider, was a guest keen to hear about the areas students thought were working well and areas where they would like some improvements. I was so impressed with the articulate and thoughtful way our students communicated their views. We have created several actions from the meeting which will be shared at tutor time. The ambition is for BFS to be single use plastic-free in the near future. This will require some changes to our dining hall facilities, such as installing more water fountains and recycling bins. School Parliament believes that making a refillable water bottle part of school essential equipment is an important first step.

Y11 & Y13 MOCKS

Our Y11 and Y13 students start their second round of mock exams next week and we wish them the very best. Mr Fernandes has sent out a letter to parents, carers and students explaining the adjustments exam boards have released on Monday. Teachers are working hard on adjusting their curriculum now this information has been released.



APPRECIATION

Next week is the last week of Term 3 and at this mid-year point we will be promoting the theme of appreciation and promoting random acts of kindness. Sixth Form students will be leading an assembly on Monday about the importance of gratitude and how you can let people know that you appreciate them. Mrs Conway described it as giving everyone the 'readybrek' glow! (one for the older ones in our community!).

Wishing you a great weekend



KEY DATES

- Monday 14 February - Appreciation Fortnight & Year 11 & Year 13 Mocks (Week 1)
- Friday 18 February - Half Term
- Monday 28 February - Term 4 starts
- Monday 28 February - Year 11 & Year 13 Mock (Week 2)
- 28 March - DofE Skills Day



ZANA FRAILLION VISITS US VIRTUALLY!

MISS LUDWELL

On the 2 March, Zana Fraillion will be taking part in a Q+A with us. When I say "us", I mean 16 students who will be selected to join the session because they wrote outstanding, interesting and thought-provoking questions in their lesson. Despite the limit on students, the Year group will have an opportunity to watch the recorded session in their lesson.

I am delighted that Zana Fraillion wants to virtually join us and I am looking forward to sharing that experience with students from Year 7.



Zana Fraillion is an Australian author who wrote Bone Sparrow (which we are currently studying). Bone Sparrow focuses on Subhi, a young boy who was born in a detention center and knows no different, it is his normal. He takes us on a journey that exposes the brutality, loneliness and difficulties he has to deal with. Thankfully he has two friends, Eli and Jimmie. Jimmie is a young girl who lives in the town and has her own battle, grieving the loss of her mother. Through her special relationship with Subhi, she is able to feel close to her mother when he reads her diary when because unfortunately, Jimmie is illiterate. Through friendship, respect and their love of stories, these two show the joy felt through moments together even when things around them are falling apart.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2022!

World Book Day 2022 will soon be upon us and this year it will be on 3 March. Your English teachers will distribute the book tokens sometime next week. Check out <https://www.worldbookday.com/> to find out which books are available this year and access some amazing online resources! We will be having some events in school to celebrate so make sure you keep an eye out in tutor time next week to learn all about them.

GOOD LUCK TO OUR OWN CANDIDATE MATILDA WHO IS IN THE RACE FOR BRISTOL YOUTH VOTE

Bristol Youth Vote^{UK}



Matilda Crockford

I am standing because:

We have important things to say & more creative ideas. I would use those ideas to make Bristol a fun and happy place.

My campaign issues are:

- The importance of mental & physical health.
- We need to make changes to make Bristol a happier & safer place.

How I will get the views of young people:

- Talking to young people from schools & youth groups.
- Setting up meetings & events.

"Adults are always telling us what to do & what's best but its our future & we need to have a say too!"



BFS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



Today is a day to strive for full and equal access and participation for women and girls in Science. The International Day of Women and Girls in Science was declared by the UN General Assembly in 2015 to celebrate and promote the achievements and success of women in Science who have frequently been overlooked, discouraged or even erased from history. At BFS, we want to encourage our students to be full of aspiration and inspire a love for Science throughout school and into further education and careers.

At BFS we have always had a culture of feminism in Science. Since we started our Sixth Form, numbers of girls studying STEM subjects have been high, notably in Physics, much higher than the national trend. We have had great success in both regional and national competitions and I have been fortunate enough to speak of these successes at conferences across Europe on how our ethos encourages girls to progress with their Science learning after they leave us.

Promoting diversity in STEM is an issue close to my heart. There have been times when I have felt like I was passed over for opportunities or talked down to because I am female and I would never want any person to feel this way or have a similar experience. I am ever hopeful and optimistic that we can continue in the right direction and that myself, colleagues and students will lead by example as the STEMInists we are!



BFS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



MS BOARD

YEAR 9 STEM ACTIVITY DAY

This Friday we were excited to welcome Fred Boucher from the Smallpiece Trust to run a day of amazing STEM activities with year 9. The day had an aviation theme and teams had to use all their engineering prowess to design, build and fly gliders. We started the day with a team work exercise, constructing free-standing paper towers, with the highest reaching nearly a metre. Next up we made straw gliders, flying them along the avenue with the furthest reaching 5 metres!

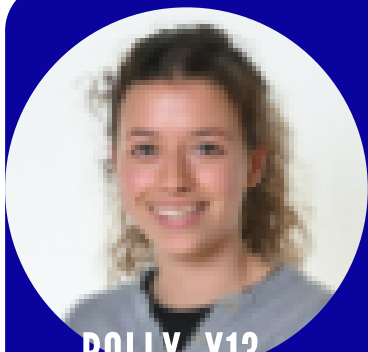
We spent the afternoon making our propeller planes, with teams having to budget, market and engineer a successful craft. The electronics were tricky to get right, but everyone managed to power their plane. Each team presented their idea to the panel of judges (Ms Board, Miss Kelly and Fred) and there were some very creative and memorable team names!

To round off the day we took to the outdoors in perfect flying conditions for THE BIG LAUNCH.

Congratulations to all our teams, Infinite, Aero 51, Phoenix, Storks, 7 Up, Upwards, Sugar Gliders, One Direction Up! You are STEMazing!



BFS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



POLLY, Y13

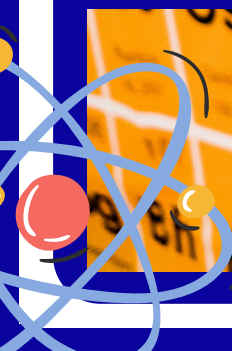
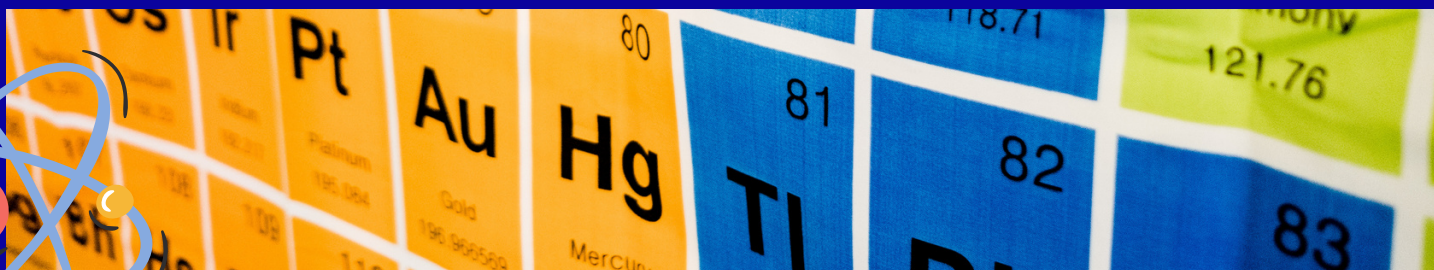
SHOWCASING OUR STEMINISTS!

Taking on Physics A-Level was an exciting challenge that has been very fulfilling. I have particularly enjoyed learning about Astro and Nuclear Physics; the sheer scale and beauty of the universe (and how insignificant we are!) as well as the weird and mysterious nature of subatomic particles is simply awe-inspiring. Doing Science A-Levels have helped to develop my problem-solving and analytical skills, not to mention given me a chance to learn to become more resilient in the face of difficulty. These abilities are easily transferable to other subjects and so this experience will undoubtedly benefit me when I go on to do Maths at university.



BECCI, Y13

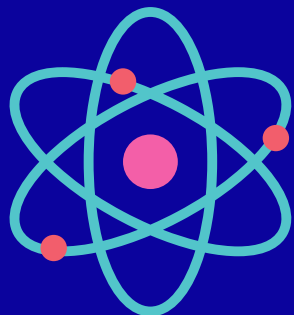
Science is an ever-expanding field and that's why I find it fascinating. From the inner workings of the universe to the components making up the nucleons of an atom, Physics covers it all. Without realising it, Physics really is all around us and makes up all the world we live in. With such a variety of topics to cover, there is something to shock and interest everyone. Taking Physics A Level has stretched my mind and gained me valuable skills that I hope to use in my future as I continue my career in science through university and into the rest of my life.



BFS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



MISS KELLY



STEM is a wonderful career path because we are all working towards common goals. We are neutral ground and there is space for everyone, no matter our gender identity. While I have felt the effect of a male-dominated field (I was the only woman on several of my engineering courses in university), I have always felt welcome in STEM. We need to move away from the stereotypical view that a “scientist” is a man in a white coat, and celebrate achievements of the hugely diverse community that STEM is.

You will see this on the news - it is rare to find pieces that focus on a man’s gender in Science. Imagine “1969: All-male team on the moon!” or “A man has won Nobel Prize in Physics 54 years in a row”. Compare that to news articles about women in STEM: “All-female spacewalk” (2019), “Team of women conduct Covid-19 testing” (2020), and “First woman to win Nobel Prize in Physics in 55 years” (2018). Being a woman in science means I take pride in knowing that we are not the “first and only”, but the “first of many”.



“I WANT TO HAVE FUN WHILE I’M WORKING. NOW NOT EVERYONE THINKS PHYSICS IS FUN, BUT I DO. I THINK EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS IS ESPECIALLY FUN, BECAUSE NOT ONLY DO YOU GET TO SOLVE PUZZLES ABOUT THE UNIVERSE OR ON EARTH, BUT THERE ARE REALLY COOL TOYS IN THE LAB.”

—DONNA STRICKLAND

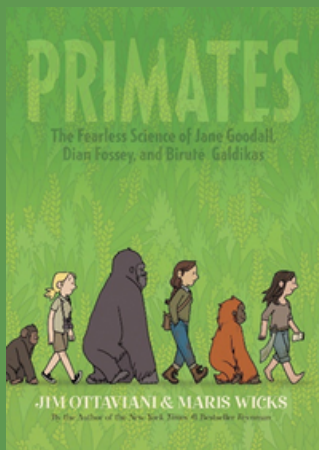
BFS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



MS LOMBARD

IF YOU FANCY READING ABOUT SOME INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN IN SCIENCE OR THE BOOKS THEY'VE WRITTEN THEN HEAD ON DOWN TO THE LRC!

JANE GOODALL



Documenting her lifelong interest of living with and studying primates. She became famous for discovering chimpanzees using tools which had previously been thought to be a uniquely human trait.

In the LRC on this animal theme we also have the graphic novel; 'Primates The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey and Birute Galdikas' by Jim Ottaviani and Maris Wicks .



Dian Fossey worked to protect the mountain gorillas she studied, whilst Birute Galikas observed Orangutans. All three women have been hugely influential and leaders in this area of understanding and promoting precious habitat conservation.



IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN READING ABOUT LOADS OF FEMINIST ROLE MODELS IN SCIENCE AND ELSEWHERE, PICK UP THE AMAZING 'THE FEMALE LEAD - VOLUMES 1 & 2'. COMPILED BY THE ONLINE PLATFORM IT SHOWCASES REMARKABLE WOMEN, FROM SCIENTISTS, MATHEMATICIANS, ENGINEERS, ARTISTS, INFLUENCERS AND ACTIVISTS.



'INFERIOR' BY ANGELA SAINI IS A THOUGHT PROVOKING READ FOCUSSED ON HOW WOMEN HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT AND IN SOME CASES COMPLETELY OMITTED FROM HISTORY. THIS HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY PREVALENT IN SCIENTIFIC HISTORY, WITH THE BOOK SHINING A LIGHT ON HOW TO ELEVATE THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN STEM AND HOW WE CAN PREVENT THIS HAPPENING IN FUTURE.

BFS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



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ON A MATHEMATICAL THEME

On a mathematical theme Ada Lovelace is now widely recognised as the first computer programmer, as she designed and published (in 1843) an algorithm to use in an 'analytical machine' which was a prototype computer. There is a good biographical read by Isabel Sanchez Vega called 'Ada Lovelace'.



We have another graphic novel by Sydney Padua called 'The thrilling adventures of Lovelace and Babbage' which, whilst based in facts from the mathematical notes and letters she and Charles Babbage produced in real life, it then extrapolates on (note the Maths term!) to imagine what adventures could have happened to Lovelace and Babbage had they actually been able to build their machine.

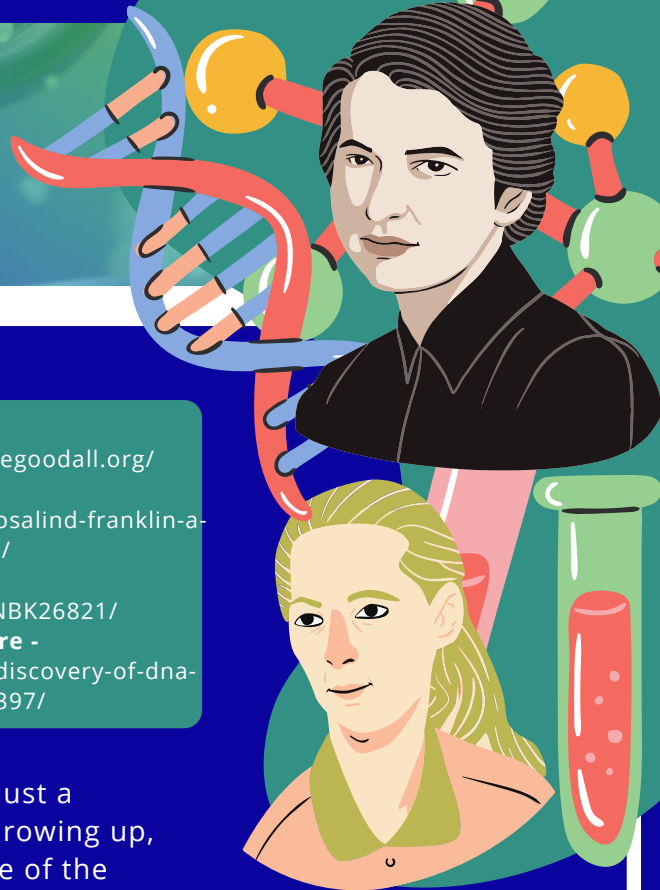
Ada herself wrote about how intuition and imagination were critical in applying mathematical and scientific concepts. I am sure she would have enjoyed the wild adventure to other dimensions that she ends up in within the book.



"THE MORE I STUDY, THE MORE INSATIABLE DO I FEEL MY GENIUS FOR IT TO BE." "YOUR BEST AND WISEST REFUGE FROM ALL TROUBLES IS IN YOUR SCIENCE." "THE SCIENCE OF OPERATIONS, AS DERIVED FROM MATHEMATICS MORE ESPECIALLY, IS A SCIENCE OF ITSELF, AND HAS ITS OWN ABSTRACT TRUTH AND VALUE."

- ADA LOVELACE

BFS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



MISS HAWES

EXCELLENT READING!

Jane Goodall institute - <https://www.janegoodall.org/>

Rosalind Franklin -

<https://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/rosalind-franklin-a-crucial-contribution-6538012/>

The structure of DNA -

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK26821/>

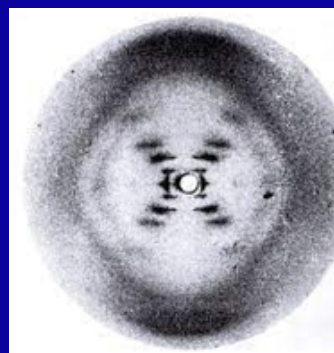
The discovery of DNA structure -

<https://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/discovery-of-dna-structure-and-function-watson-397/>

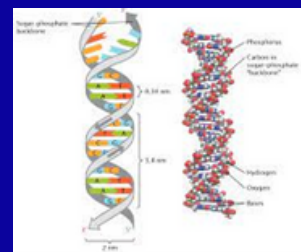
I have never really considered myself a 'Woman in Science', just a 'Scientist'. Upon reflection I realise what a privilege this is. Growing up, I was encouraged to read books and maintain to this day one of the best gifts my parents gave me - a local library card and a weekly library trip. They would argue the library saved them a fortune as they would never afford to keep me in books the rate I read them! I was also encouraged in my studies by my teachers and never felt different due to my gender. It is only as I became an adult and learnt the story of Malala Yousafzai that I really began to realise the gift I had been given.

During my university course I quickly became enamoured by the field of genetics, as this combined both my love of Maths and Science. Controversially, I believe today's ground breaking research was made possible by Rosalind Franklin. Upon learning more about Rosalind Franklin it quickly became apparent to me that although we credit the discovery of DNA to James Watson and Francis Crick, she deserves equal credit. The first x ray crystallography of DNA was taken by her. In fact, Watson and Crick saw her unpublished photo and used this as the main piece of evidence in their theory. They then published the shape of DNA without giving her any credit whatsoever. After she died, Crick, reluctantly, said her contribution was critical. Tragically, Rosalind died at 37 from cancer and never got the credit she deserved for her discovery. In fact, only the other day I was watching a TedEx talk by James Watson whereby he added her in as side note while talking about his discovery. Surely this was, and still is, one of the biggest injustices of science. Rosalind Franklin, although lived a short life, made ground breaking scientific discoveries, travelled the world and worked in some of the most famous universities globally. She is truly an inspiration to any budding female scientist.

My other passion at university was plants and conservation. During my studies I encountered another exceptional female scientist, Jane Goodall. In July 1960, at just 27, she left England and went to Tanzania to study chimpanzees. She has spent the next 60 years studying chimpanzees and taught the world that chimpanzees use tools, have social groups and emotions. Today, at age 87, she still travels the world to educate people on these primates and conservation. She has also set up the Jane Goodall Institute, a charity dedicated to conservation. In my opinion, she should be more of a household name than Sir David Attenborough!



**ROSALIND FRANKLINS
FAMOUS X-RAY
CRYSTALLOGRAPHY PHOTO
OF DNA (CAN YOU SPOT
THE DOUBLE HELIX SHAPE?)**



STRUCTURE OF DNA

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE...



MISS HAWES

KS3 BIOLOGY COMPETITION



We have received some excellent entries to the KS3 Biology competition- all about Superbugs!

We all need to help fight the superbugs!

SUPERBUGS JOIN THE FIGHT!

Pfizer

How to enter?

Tell the world about superbugs! Create a poster that explains how we can all take action to reduce the rise of superbugs. See the 'Superbugs: Join the Fight!' Competition Leaflet for details on how to enter.

- 1** Keep yourself clean and healthy⁵
- 2** Keep the places around you clean⁶
- 3** Use medicines correctly²
- 4** Spread the word²

Spread the word, not the disease.

How you communicate your message is up to you. Just make sure your content is:

- Original
- Relevant - based on scientific facts and the four 'weapons'
- Engaging and memorable
- Clear and to the point

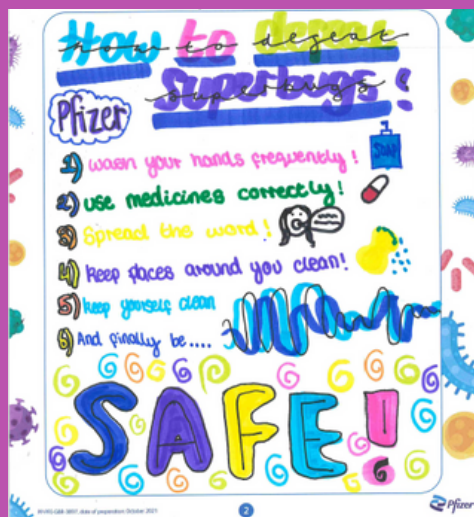
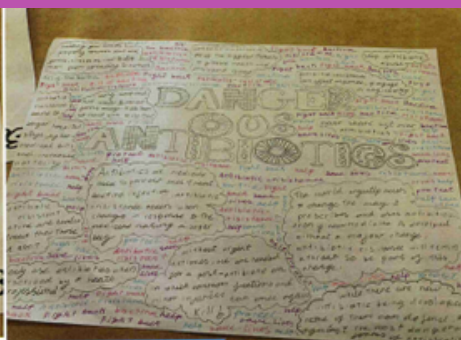
SUPERBUGS JOIN THE FIGHT!



PF 111 GDB 2016. Date of preparation: October 2021.

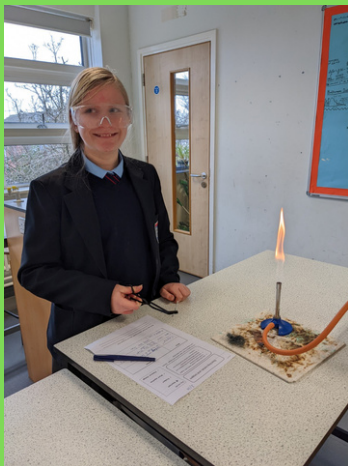


⁵ <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/> Accessed October 2021
⁶ <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/how-to-prevent-germs-from-spreading/> Accessed October 2021
² <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance> Accessed October 2021



THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE...

MISS GOODBODY'S CLASS INVESTIGATED HOW DIFFERENT METALS REACTED WITH FIRE. THEY FOUND THAT MAGNESIUM HAD THE BIGGEST REACTION OF THE METALS THEY TESTED.



THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE CLUB, WE HAD AN EARTH-SHATTERING START TO OUR APOCALYPSE THEME! USING FLOUR AND SAND, STUDENTS CREATED MINI MODEL EARTHS TO DESTROY WITH A VARIETY OF PROJECTILES. WE ANSWERED QUESTIONS SUCH AS "WHAT EVENTS COULD LEAD TO A HUMAN EXTINCTION?", "WHY WAS THE ASTEROID THAT WIPED OUT THE DINOSAURS SO DESTRUCTIVE?" AND, INEVITABLY, "HOW MUCH FLOUR CAN I GET ON MY UNIFORM?"



7TG7 COMPLETED THEIR FIRST PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT!



BFS SIXTH FORM

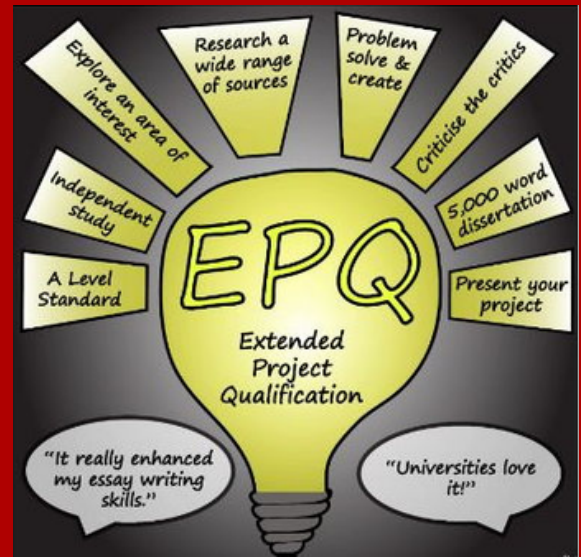


MS MORGAN

BFS EPQ

Students have been completing their independent research projects (EPQ), which they have taken as an additional qualification alongside their A Level and/or BTEC courses. This qualification is highly valued by universities for the independent research and analysis skills students develop.

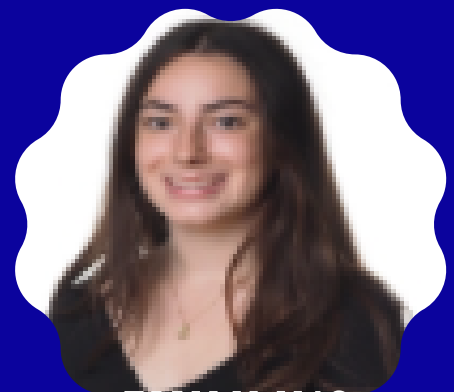
The EPQ requires students to research and develop a project on a topic of their choice in the form of a report or an artefact. The final requirement of the course is to complete a presentation on their findings and key skills they have developed. The presentations delivered so far have been outstanding; students have spoken with confidence and passion about their chosen topics.



BEN, Y13

I HAVE FELT THAT EPQ HAS BEEN VERY USEFUL ALONGSIDE MY A-LEVELS, AS IT HAS IMPROVED MY ESSAY WRITING AND RESEARCH SKILLS AND FURTHERED MY INTEREST IN A TOPIC WHICH LINKS TO MY STUDIES. I BELIEVE THIS WILL HAVE STRENGTHENED MY WORK ACROSS SUBJECTS, AND ESPECIALLY IN COURSEWORK. MY EPQ CONSIDERED PATTERNS OF WORLD WATER CONSUMPTION AND THE ASSOCIATED IMPACTS ON WATER STRESS. THIS TOPIC LINKED CLOSELY TO MY GEOGRAPHY A-LEVEL AND TO WHAT I HOPE TO STUDY IN THE FUTURE. I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE TOPIC AND TO ADD TO THE SKILLS I GAINED, I THINK THE EXTRA SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE I HAVE DEVELOPED WILL BE VERY USEFUL.

I THINK THAT DOING AN EPQ HAS BEEN VERY BENEFICIAL FOR ME AND HAS HELPED ME DEVELOPED MANY SKILLS, SUCH AS REFERENCING, SCANNING THROUGH LARGE CHUNKS OF INFORMATION AND ESSAY WRITING (WHICH HAS PARTICULARLY HELPED ME AS I STUDY ENGLISH). I ALSO FEEL AS THOUGH EPQ HAS HELPED ME IMPROVE MY COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE DUE TO THE PRESENTATION YOU HAVE TO DO, AND SEVERAL MEETINGS THAT I HAD WITH SENIOR TEAM STAFF. I AM REALLY INTERESTED IN MY EPQ TOPIC, WHICH FOCUSED ON HOW PSHE TEACHES SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CONSENT, WHICH HAS MEANT THAT RESEARCHING AND WRITING UP MY ESSAY WAS SOMETHING I GENUINELY ENJOYED DOING. THIS QUALIFICATION WAS VALUABLE TO ME AS IT LINKS TO THE UNIVERSITY COURSE I HOPE TO STUDY, AND HAS PROVIDED ME WITH NEW SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT WILL BE USEFUL FOR ME MOVING FORWARD.



EMILY, Y13

BFS COMPUTER SCIENCE



MRS RAMANANDI

CYBERFIRST GIRL'S COMPETITION

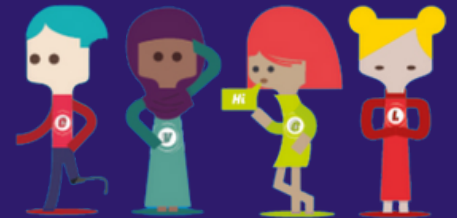


Congratulations to Ellie, Rosie, Sama, and Ava for reaching the Top 5 in CyberFirst Girl's Competition. The girls have worked very hard and have performed extremely well against the top 12 schools in the Southwest region.

The competition happened at Delta House, Cheltenham. MP Alex Chalk was present for the award ceremony and encouraged all the participants with his motivating speech.

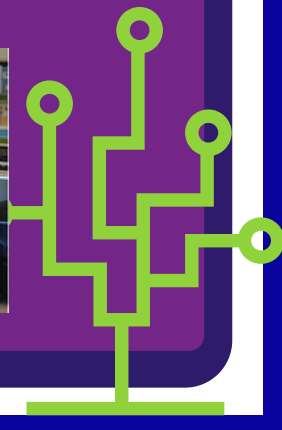
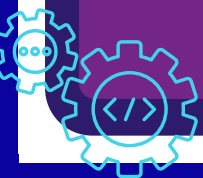
THE RANKING ORDER OF THE FINALS IS:

- PATE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL
- ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE
- BOURNMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
- DENMARK ROAD HIGH SCHOOL
- BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL
- MALMESBURY SECONDARY SCHOOL
- WYEDEAN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE
- SOUTH WILTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL
- PARKSTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
- ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE
- THE CRYPT GRAMMAR SCHOOL
- ST JOHN'S, MARLBOROUGH



THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY COMPUTING CHALLENGE

The Oxford University Computing Challenge is an invitation event which aims to encourage students who have achieved a top 10% score in the UK Bebras Challenge to develop their skills further and produce programmed solutions to computational thinking problems. More than 65 students participated in The Oxford University Computing Challenge this week. Well done to all the students!



BFS COMPUTER SCIENCE

CURRENT CYBER THREATS

BY ZAC & ANNA, Y12

One very common and well known threat is phishing, where fraudulent messages are sent to individuals in an attempt to trick them into revealing private information, such as credit/debit card numbers and passwords. Usually, this will be done by sending emails or text messages to multiple people at once, in which the scammers will pretend to be from reputable organisations.

A recent example of this happened in August 2021, where many people received text messages from a number claiming to be from package delivery companies. The scammer would tell their potential victim that they needed to confirm their delivery by following a link to a website which asked for their card details.

However, phishing scams can be relatively easy to detect, especially if you know the signs. For example, the obvious sign that the parcel text messages were fake was that people were able to call the numbers which the messages were sent from, whereas you cannot do the same with numbers which come from official organisations. Some other key signs are:

- Spelling and grammatical errors;
- If link does not start with "https" and is not secure;
- The message does not address you in a direct way by avoiding any reference of personal details, most clearly your name;
- If they claim to come from a company and the name of the company misspelled (e.g. "HBSC" instead of "HSBC").

Additionally, if you think that you may have submitted your card details to a scam website or you notice charges have been made to your bank account which you do not remember, then you should freeze your debit/credit card(s) immediately and contact your bank for further steps in order to assure your security.

Another very current issue some people encounter online is cyberstalking, which can lead to online harassment. Cyberstalking is incredibly similar to physical stalking, however you will usually not be aware of it happening as there is usually no way of being able to tell who is monitoring your online activities.

Cyberstalking is often done to find out as much information about an individual as possible - usually including details which they may have never intentionally shared online - in order to threaten them, often asking for money in return. More famously, it can also be done in order to doxx someone, perhaps because of a disagreement or to create drama and distress.

The easiest way to protect yourself from cyberstalking is to always be conscious of the implications of what you share on social media. This can be done by checking your bio, posts' descriptions, and so on while looking for any details which can be inferred from them. If you feel threatened by somebody, especially if they attempt to reveal personal information about you, you should screenshot any messages as proof and send them to the police/website moderators.

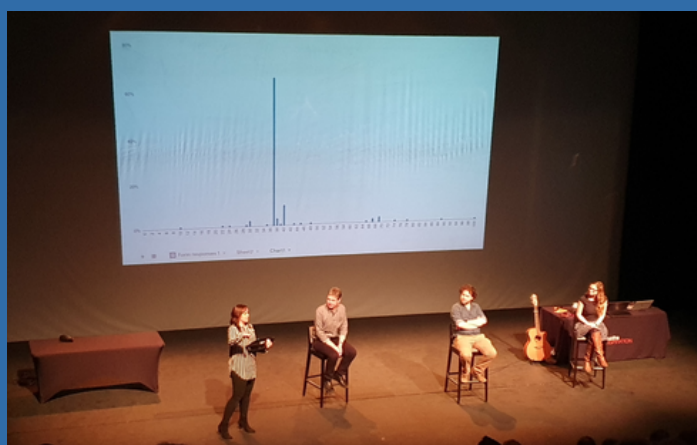
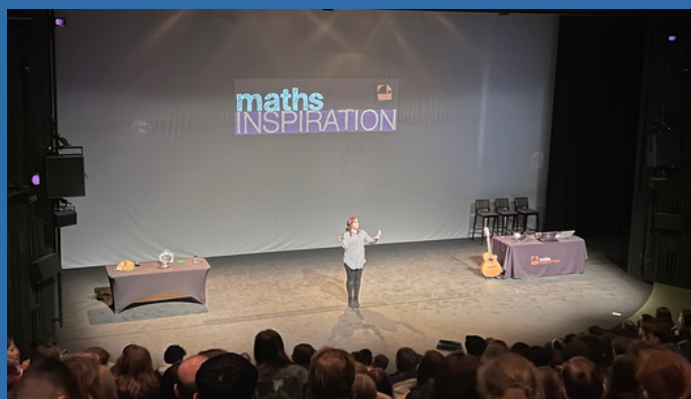
BFS MATHS



MR COUSINS

MATHS INSPIRATION TRIP

Last week 60 students in Year 11 and 12 made the short coach journey to Cardiff for some Maths Inspiration. In the beautiful Sherman Theatre in the heart of Cardiff students heard talks from Rob Eastaway, Sammie Buzzard and Ben Sparks. The show was hosted by Jennifer Rogers. All the speakers are respected experts and authors in different fields from statistics to climate change, from poker to guitar-playing!



SAM Y12

"TODAY AT THE SHERMAN THEATRE WE HAD 3 VERY COOL AND INTERACTIVE MATHS TALKS.

THE FIRST ONE WAS BY ROB EASTAWAY WHICH WAS A FUN TALK AND GAVE US THE CHANCE TO BREAK DOWN AND DO A HARD CALCULATION ON OUR OWN AND SHOWED US THAT EVERY CALCULATION IS POSSIBLE TO DO WITH DEDICATION AND SMART THINKING. HE ALSO PICKED TWO VOLUNTEERS TO PLAY A FUN PRETEND SHOW GAME.

THE SECOND TALK WAS FROM SAMMIE BUZZARD AND SHE EXPLAINED TO US WHAT SHE DOES AND HOW MATHS IS USEFUL FOR HER JOB AND SHE CALLED DOWN A VOLUNTEER TO DO A DEMONSTRATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SHOWED THAT IF THE ICE MELTS THE WATER WILL RISE. THE VOLUNTEER WAS USING A HAIRDRYER TO MELT THE ICE AND SHE GOT THE VOLUNTEER TO WEAR A TRUMP MASK WHILST DOING IT - I THOUGHT THAT WAS A FUNNY POLITICAL STATEMENT.

THE LAST AND FINAL TALK WHICH WAS MY FAVOURITE AND MOST INTERACTIVE ONE, IN MY OPINION, WAS BY BEN SPARKS AND I HAD A LOT OF FUN DURING THIS ONE AS HE TAUGHT US PROBABILITY IN A REALLY FUN WAY. AT THE END OF THE TALK, HE SANG US 'A PIECE OF MY HEART' BY STING. ALL IN ALL, I HAD A REALLY FUN TIME AND I FOUND THE TOPICS TO BE VERY ENGAGING AND FUNNY."



BFS MATHS



MR COUSINS

MATHS INSPIRATION TRIP

EACH OF THE THREE SPEAKERS CONVEYED AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT AND INTRIGUING SIDE OF MATHS. I THOUGHT BEN SPARKS WAS PARTICULARLY ENGAGING AS HE TALKED TO US ABOUT HOW OFTEN OUR PERCEPTION OF PROBABILITY IS COMPLETELY ASKEW, USING THE VALUE OF VARIOUS POKER HANDS AS AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE. OUR HOST, JENNIFER ROGERS FROM CARDIFF UNIVERSITY, WAS AN IMPRESSIVE STATISTICIAN AND SHOWED US HOW STATISTICS IN THE NEWS CAN BE MANIPULATED TO CONVEY CERTAIN MESSAGES DEPENDING ON WHICH DETAILS ARE INCLUDED OR LEFT OUT. - YR 11 STUDENT



LUCY, Y13

"MY PERSONAL FAVOURITE LECTURE WAS THE SECOND ONE WE LISTENED TO FROM A CLIMATE SCIENTIST. SHE TALKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MATHS IN CLIMATE RESEARCH AND HOW MATHS CAN PREVENT EARTH FROM REACHING TEMPERATURES TOO DANGEROUS TO COME BACK FROM. WHAT INTERESTED ME THE MOST WAS HOW ACTIVE A ROLE SHE HAD IN THIS RESEARCH: SHE REGULARLY GOES OUT TO THE ARCTIC AND ANTARCTICA TO COLLECT MEASUREMENTS ABOUT FACTORS LIKE TEMPERATURES, MELTING ICE, AND RISING SEA LEVELS. SHE EXPERTLY REINFORCED THE FACT THAT WE HAVE THE RESEARCH SHOWING THE DANGERS AND RATES OF GLOBAL WARMING, OUR LEADERS JUST NEED TO ACT QUICKER."

BFS SPORT



MR WHITFIELD



Congratulations to our under 13s cricket team who were unbeaten in our area indoor cricket competition. We now progress to the whole of Bristol round where we hope our success will continue! Well done to the whole squad!



MRS BALLARD

U14 FOOTBALL V BLAISE



Our Under 14 team finally had their first fixture this week against Blaise and they did not disappoint! Despite never having played a competitive game together before, they all worked their socks off. We won the game very comfortably 10-0. A special mention to Chloe G who scored 5 - incredible! Emily G scored 3 fantastic goals and Isla L scored 2, a very confident penalty and a wonder strike. Isla L was nominated as player of the match by the opposition, which was well deserved after a fantastic performance in central midfield. I hope the positivity and results continue in our remaining group games. Well done girls!



MS URCH

INDOOR HOCKEY

The PE team and Mr Bower have been working hard this week repairing the hockey sides ready for indoor hockey to start week beginning Monday 7 March. We have managed to acquire some indoor hockey goals too which is fantastic news! We can't wait to start! Remember to let your tutor know if you currently play hockey and for which club. Miss Urch would love to see as many of you attending indoor training as possible. This club is also open to everyone at BFS. If you have never tried hockey before, then please do come along and see what all the fuss is about!



PROJECT ZAZI - OTR



Project Zazi: Is the name for our work with young black people and young people of colour and supports them in exploring culture and identity.

The Zazi Library

The Zazi Library is a digital catalogue of all of Team Zazi's favourite pieces of media! Inside there are books, interviews, poems, comics and graphic novels and also digital pieces such as podcasts, Instagram accounts and YouTube channels etc. It's updated quarterly so do check regularly! Here's the link:

<https://www.otrbristol.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Zazi-Library-Spring-2021.pdf>



MRS PARASKEVA



HALL OF MAGNIFICENCE

In 2021, OTR formally launched our "Hall of Magnificence" as a way of celebrating and honouring some of the young people who make our city such an incredible space to live in.

At Team Zazi, we are hugely influenced by exemplary young people of colour. We are driven by the work of young creatives, activists, entrepreneurs, athletes and students who are in our eyes, delivering their magnificence to those around them and inspiring the next generation of change makers. The work that our young people are involved in within our communities sometimes go unnoticed, it does not get the spotlighting it needs - we want to change that.

Here are 25 of Bristol's most influential and inspiring young people of colour, nominated and celebrated by our community. These young people are influencing, challenging and reconstructing the spaces that they enter. They are all beacons of light for our city. They are all magnificent. We hope they inspire you as much as they inspire us! Here is the link to see these magnificent Bristolians:

<https://www.blackbristol.com/hom2021>



ABDIRAZAK HUSSEIN



NASRA AYUB



SOPHIA HARARI

LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH



PIPPA, Y11

LGBTQ+ history is such an important topic that is not talked about enough, it is so amazing to see how far we have come as a community and essential to recognize the people who risked their lives for our rights. Despite this, they are barely ever mentioned, usually because they are not seen as important or worth learning about. That is why LGBTQ+ history month needs to exist, so that we can learn about the long fight for equality and recognize the change that still needs to be made.

The 1960s saw many developments in the LGBTQ+ rights movement, the most notable of which being Stonewall. The Stonewall Riots started on 28 June 1969, when New York police raided a gay club called the Stonewall Inn, arresting 13 people. At the time, "homosexual acts" were still illegal and bars and restaurants could get arrested for serving or employing gay people. Basically, the view was "fine, be gay, but we want to be able to ignore your existence". Most gay bars were run by the Mafia who paid police officers to ignore them and blackmailed their wealthy patrons by threatening to 'out' them (tell people that they are a part of the LGBTQ+ community). Police raids were common but on the night of the Stonewall Riots it came completely unexpected and members of the LGBTQ+ community decided to fight back.

That night, 8 undercover police officers entered the bar with the intention of shutting it down, they singled out drag queens and crossdressers as well as the employees (in New York "masquerading" as the opposite sex was still a crime). More NYPD officers arrived and a crowd formed outside the bar. There are various accounts of how the riots started, one says that one of the police officers was roughly arresting a masculine-dressed woman, Stormé DeLarverie, so the crowd started taunting them and throwing things in their anger, or possibly it was the young, homeless, gay men who saw the Stonewall as their only safe space that started the riots.

The most widely believed story is that it was two transgender women of colour, Marsha P Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, that threw the first bottles or bricks. Even if some of these stories aren't true, these women became key figures in the uprising. Within minutes, a riot erupted and they continued for 5 days. The LGBTQ+ community was fed up with being targeted. One year later, on 28 June 1970, the first pride parade set off outside the Stonewall Inn.



A lot of change has happened since 1969: 29 countries allow same-sex marriage, gender affirming medical treatments such as surgery and hormone replacement therapy are slightly more accessible and the world has a slightly kinder view of the LGBTQ+ community than it used to. However, there is still so much change to be made, in the law and our own attitudes. Casual homophobia is so accepted in our society, even just in BFS it is so common to hear people being homophobic and passing it off as a joke. How many times have you heard the word gay being used as an insult? Just a couple of weeks ago I heard someone say that they took extra rainbow laces from PE "to spread awareness so they can find a cure" (of course, there is no cure because being LGBTQ+ is not a disease).

Our school is not an exception. Yes, a lot of places are a lot worse but bigotry is everywhere and you don't even have to look that hard to find it. Non-binary people are not legally recognized and conversion therapy is still legal in the UK (a practice that attempts to "change" someone's sexuality or gender identity). 71 countries criminalise being LGBTQ+ with 11 saying it's punishable by death. Even within the LGBTQ+ community there is still so much racism, transphobia and misogyny, despite it being trans women of colour who risked their lives to start the riots that gave us our rights. That is why learning about LGBTQ+ history is so important, so we can change and improve and so that we don't forget people like Marsha P Johnson, Sylvia Rivera and Stormé DeLarverie.



MISS LUDWELL

LGBT+ BFS POEMS

I knew students at BFS were great but even after four years here, they have surprised me by their participation, engagement and openness with the LGBTQ+ celebration lesson.

I cannot take full credit for the lesson, as the lovely students in the Pride Group were helpful in their suggestions and what questions should be covered – they were all answered thoughtfully and students shared insightful ideas.

We focused on the poem, 'Litany for Survival' by Audre Lorde and started to unpick how the poet may have felt but also how we felt reading it. We further explored how the LGBTQ+ community may feel and I say this with pride, students who are members of the community shared their own experiences with us. For that, thank you!

I am sharing with you, my lovely Year 9's class poem. In groups they wrote a stanza each and we put them together to create our class poem focusing on overcoming darkness and seeing the 'light at the end of the tunnel'.



To those who are wavering in between one light and the dark
 Acceptance or denial
 A mark since birthday you've left to the shadows
 Eating at you, stealing your identity
 Leaving you with the truth in front of you
And the decision of how you're defined is right there.

To those who heart feels like a black coal,
And lungs overflow with intoxicating poison,
 Something you feel pressures
 Over time it builds up but
 Never forget, that under pressure
 Coal turns to diamond.

When surrounded by darkness
 Remember to reach for the light
 Celebrate who you are.
 Unlock your fears
 Speak out
 For you are not unwanted.

Constant fear
 No turning back
 To those who feel on the edge
 To those who couldn't hear themselves anymore
 For those who are praying someone can.

For those of us who are falling
 We all have clouds to catch us
 To break and cushion our fall
 The celebration of living
And breathing is fresh air
And these clouds will help you to realise
You're not falling after all.

For those of us without a song
 Remember that everyone has lyrics
 To be authorised
 Waiting for you to sing your solo.

For those of us
 Who don't see the sunrise
 Who hide away in the shadows and darkness
 Just know
 You are not alone.

For the people,
 Who can't see the light
 That fail to celebrate,
 Come with us,
 To overcome the darkness
And celebrate our differences.

For those of us who see life as a celebration
 For the rest of us who see life as survival
 For those of us who cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel
And for those who can.



POEM BY MS ROSS' Y9

My opinions – I have many
 I thought they weren't valid
 Don't you know my scars
 Decorate my body
 Fear isn't equal

I'm ice cold
 Yet not just physically
 Cold in my loneliness
 Starving hungry
 Not a single drop to drink
 I need space to think
 Passers-by but not a single smile

Harder to walk, harder to talk
 Harder to open the door to work
 Harder to drive, harder to eat
 Harder to live, harder to survive

One more day I hope I'll get life
 Yet I will visualise clear blue skies
 Without feeling guilt and torture
 Of the people who pass by
 Day by day



MISS LUDWELL'S YR7 POEM:

For all of us hiding in the dark,
 You are not alone
 For all of us who can't escape
 We are just different
 So let's come out of the shadows
 And celebrate our differences
 For all of us who have been held back
 Now, our differences like a flock of doves
 Are now released
 So let us celebrate.

The hope and the hurt that lives inside of me
 And the emotions that try and drown me deep
 Within their presence, it is the judgement, stares
 And mean comments that keep me awake at night,
 But pushing this aside, I find the real me that's ready to come out.

The celebration for all of us
 Has to be respected
 Even if we are different
 There should not have to be any fight for respect or for survival
 If we are different, do not hide
 Be proud and celebrate.

You are not alone
 There will always be one to support you
 And that will be me
 Wherever you are in the world

I will support you.

I was afraid
 I was upset
 For people putting me down for who I am
 Then I built up some blocks
 And now celebrate the happy times.

As the sun comes up, it is time to celebrate
 Because the day is new.
 Do not think about the bad
 Or the thick grey clouds
 Just think about the good
 That will brighten up your day!

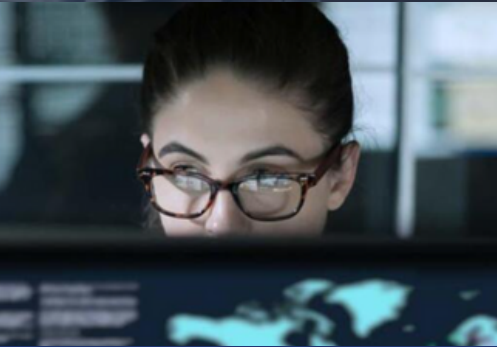
For those of us who are living on the edge,
 Celebrate your differences
 No one should be ashamed of who,
 what or why, you are you.
 For those of us who are living on the edge
 You can always count on someone.

BFS CAREERS



MR PARRY

HEAD OF BUSINESS AND CAREERS LEADER



CAREERS EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Hear about our Bristol Solicitor Apprenticeship at Womble Bond Dickinson- 23 February 2022

Join an information session on 23 February 2022 to hear more about the Bristol Solicitor Apprenticeship programme. During the session, hear from WBD, Bristol City Council and University of Law to find out more about the six year programme and what to expect during the recruitment process. You will also hear from our current Solicitor Apprentices about their experience and what it's like to work for WBD and Bristol City Council.

For more information and to sign up for the free event- <https://www.womblebonddickinson.com/uk/insights/events/hear-about-our-bristol-solicitor-apprenticeship>



APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

This week we have been celebrating apprenticeship week, by all students in Years 7-10 learning about apprenticeships in tutorial and also having the opportunity to hear from current apprentices through virtual videos. In addition to this Year 10 and 12 also had a virtual assembly from the ASK programme. The school has a close working relationship with the ASK programme and we are grateful for their support and will continue to work closely with them in the future.

Apprenticeships are in a fast moving landscape and they are being heavily promoted by the government and as a school we will also promote and educate students about apprenticeships. The ASK programme have provided us with an informative video for parents and carers about apprenticeships, if you have time I would recommend you watch the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bal6hDqzNb0&t=322s>



THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HAS ALSO WRITTEN TO ALL SCHOOLS ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS, BELOW I SHARE LETTER WRITTEN BY THE SKILLS MINISTER, ALEX BURGHART FOR THE ATTENTION OF PARENTS, CARERS AND GUARDIANS.

https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2022/02/AA_Parents_Skills-Minister-Letter_ParentsCarers.pdf
<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/parent-skills-minister-letter/>

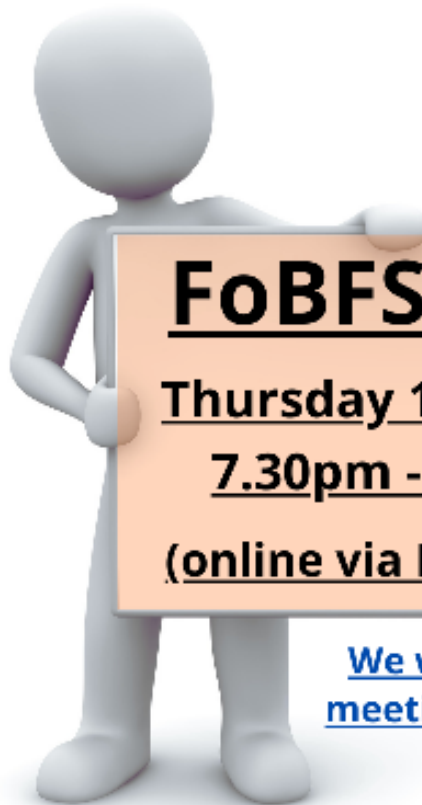


Friends of Bristol Free School

We are a registered charity and school PTA, consisting of a friendly group of parents, carers, and teachers helping to raise funds on behalf of the school and students.



Chair of FoBFS



FoBFS AGM

Thursday 17th March

7.30pm - 8.30pm

(online via MS-Teams)

[We will provide the meeting invite nearer the time!](#)



Looking for FoBFS Committee Nominations!

Chairperson, Treasurer, Members

The FoBFS Committee meets once per term. If you are interested in joining FoBFS please email us **TODAY!**

 fobfs@bristolfreeschool.org.uk



Friends of Bristol Free School Help us raise funds!

Please help FoBFS to raise funds for the school by signing up to one (or both) of the two online platforms that we support.

Every time you shop, we receive a small donation, and it's completely free for you!



Donations from AmazonSmile

Cumulative

£226.98

Received to date

Most Recent

£57.26

Received in Dec 2021



Your cause has raised...

£1,428.50

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fobfs

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JUST EAT