



EXCITING PARTNERSHIP WITH ST MONICA TRUST

Retirement village offers pupils a sporting chance - An exciting unique partnership for our students!

The St Monica Trust's Westbury Fields Retirement Village has offered use of its cricket field for sports and activities. The cricket field is the home ground of Bishopston Cricket Club and will be used by students for football, rounders, American Football, ultimate frisbee and fitness sessions.

We are delighted for our students to have access to such fantastic sporting facilities, right on our doorstep. It is a real privilege and will be a game-changer for our school sports.

We are looking forward to wider community opportunities in sports and other enrichment activities, benefitting our students and St Monica Trust's residents. This shows real community spirit and we are so proud to be partners in this.

KEY DATES

- Monday 14 March - Sixth Form Pastoral Day
- Wednesday 16 March - Non uniform day
- Monday 28 March - INSET Day & DofE Skills Day
- Saturday 2 April - Ramadan starts
- Friday 8 April - End of Term 4

BFS SUPPORTS UKRAINE - 16 MARCH

PLEASE WEAR BLUE AND YELLOW

WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH
A DAY FOR
UKRAINE



BFS SUPPORTS UKRAINE



**STAND WITH
UKRAINE**

Help For Ukraine

As you will be aware there is a humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Ukraine and as a school we would like to work together with our community in order to try and offer help where we can. On Wednesday 16 March we will be raising money for the Disasters Emergency Committee. An important charity doing all they can to support and provide the people of Ukraine with food, water, shelter healthcare and protection. Please visit <https://www.dec.org.uk/> for more information.

Wednesday 16 March will be a non-uniform day, and we ask students to wear blue and yellow to school.

**WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH
A DAY FOR
UKRAINE**



- £30 COULD PROVIDE ESSENTIAL HYGIENE SUPPLIES FOR THREE PEOPLE FOR ONE MONTH
- £50 COULD PROVIDE BLANKETS FOR FOUR FAMILIES
- £100 COULD PROVIDE EMERGENCY FOOD FOR TWO FAMILIES FOR ONE MONTH

**TO OUR COMMUNITY, YOUR
SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED**



**WE WOULD WELCOME ANY CAKE
CONTRIBUTIONS IN SCHOOL
FOR OUR BAKE SALE NEXT
WEDNESDAY, PROCEEDS TO
DISASTERS EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE
#UKRAINE**

**BFS BAKE
SALE**



**FUNDRAISING FOR UKRAINE
LUNCHTIME WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH**

LATERAL FLOW HOME TEST KITS

Testing is no longer required so the reminders from TEST REGISTER have now been paused. However you can still submit student results using that platform which is helpful to the school as we are notified of positive cases promptly.

National guidance remains that students may wish to test if they are visiting someone who is at higher risk of getting seriously ill from Covid-19, or that they have tested positive for Covid-19 and want to check whether they are still infectious after day 5.

We do have a supply of LFD test kits in school. Whilst we will not be running a mass distribution cycle again, students can pick one up from their tutor or from Student Services. Any questions regarding this can be sent to covid.testing@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

REMINDER TO YEAR 8 PARENTS



The Sirona Immunisation Team will be at school on Wednesday 16 March 2022 to administer the HPV Dose 1 vaccination to all Year 8 students. If you have not already done so, please complete the online consent for your child to have this vaccination via this link as soon as possible and at the very latest by midnight on Sunday. Please complete the consent even if you do not want your child to receive the vaccination.

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/hpv/2021/consent>
This link will close at midnight on Sunday.

To find out more about the HPV vaccination:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hpv-vaccine-vaccination-guide-leaflet>

If you would like more information please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations. If you have any questions, please contact the Immunisation Team at sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net or 01275 373104

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

WHEN? - MONDAY 21 MARCH 6:30-7:30PM

WHERE? - ONLINE VIA TEAMS



Link to the session will be sent out via ParentPay during the week before the event.

As part of the pastoral support within the school, we have formed a partnership with Avon and Somerset Police to offer parents the chance to attend an information event on Child Sexual Exploitation and Social Media.

The session aims to help parents identify risk factors where a young person might be vulnerable to this and provide them the next steps in accessing support. It will also provide parents with valuable information on different social media apps and how they can be misused.

The session will be delivered by Androulla Nicolaou, Child Exploitation Officer for Avon and Somerset Police's TOPAZ Child Exploitation team.

Child Sexual Exploitation is happening

Exploited children are led to believe they are in a loving relationship, or feel too scared to tell anyone about the abuse they are suffering.

Ask me. Ask me again. Keep asking...

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

On Monday 7 March, six Y12 students travelled to Howells School, Cardiff, to a regional session of the European Youth Parliament with Ms Ross and Mrs Meech. Bristol Free School were asked to defend a motion on how to effectively manage the growing number of refugees in Europe and to propose a range of solutions. During the day they also debated, questioned, supported and challenged a range of other motions on diverse topics, such as fast fashion, vaccine roll out and rights of workers in the gig economy.

While the main aim of the day was to debate international issues, working as a team and having fun was also at the heart of the experience. Our team of six spent time preparing to defend their resolution in the Model United Nations Club, as well as in their free time. This included researching, writing speeches and collaborating with the whole team to cover all relevant clauses fully, which included proposing implementation of international treaties on human rights and addressing xenophobia and nationalism.

On the day, our Y12 students gave speeches, asked probing questions and responded to rounds of debate alongside six other schools from South Wales and the South West. It was a long, tiring but exciting day, which showcased the enthusiasm and commitment of our students.

After lunch, the delegates took a break from debates to hear from a key note speaker Heledd Fychan, MS. Heledd shared her experiences in working in student, local and national politics and as an elected member of the Welsh Assembly.

By the end of the day, the students had great success in getting their resolution passed, working effectively as a team and taking some time to enjoy themselves along the way too!



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT



MS ROSS



LRC NEWS

CALLING ALL BOOK CRITICS....

CARNEGIE MEDAL AWARD – BE A PART OF THE AWARD PROCESS.



PROMOTING A READING CULTURE 



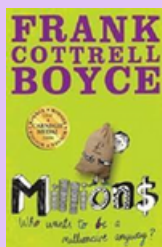
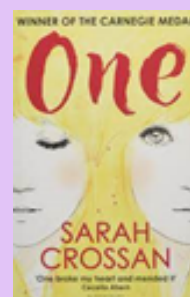
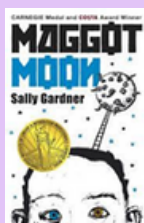
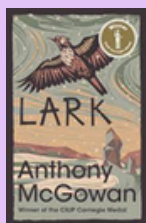
If you love reading, fancy a career in publishing or writing then come and join our team. Book Club are delighted to announce that we have registered for the Carnegie Shadowing experience.

Each year teams of readers across the country meet to read and discuss the books that have been specially selected onto the Carnegie shortlist. Over the next couple of terms will be reading and reviewing the shortlist, so take the opportunity to write your review, which will be uploaded to the official website and make the case for your favourite novel. The book with the most votes will be submitted as the BFS choice and our vote will count towards the final winning selection.

Get involved and have your voice heard – come to Book Club every Blue Wednesday in the LRC. The shortlist will be announced on 16 March but if you can't wait until then for some prize-worthy literature then here are some previous winners for you to peruse, many of which are available in the LRC!

COME IN AND CHECK THEM OUT!

- 2021 JASON REYNOLDS, LOOK BOTH WAYS
- 2020 ANTHONY MCGOWAN, LARK,
- 2019 ELIZABETH ACEVEDO, THE POET X,
- 2018 GERALDINE MCCAUGHREAN, WHERE THE WORLD ENDS,
- 2017 RUTA SEPETYS, SALT TO THE SEA,
- 2016 SARAH CROSSAN, ONE,
- 2015 TANYA LANDMAN, BUFFALO SOLDIER,
- 2014 KEVIN BROOKS, THE BUNKER DIARY,
- 2013 SALLY GARDNER, MAGGOT MOON,
- 2012 PATRICK NESS, A MONSTER CALLS,
- 2011 PATRICK NESS, MONSTERS OF MEN,
- 2010 NEIL GAIMAN, THE GRAVEYARD BOOK
- 2009 SIOBHAN DOWD, BOG CHILD,
- 2008 PHILIP REEVE, HERE LIES ARTHUR,
- 2007 MEG ROSOFF, JUST IN CASE
- 2005 MAL PEET, TAMAR
- 2004 FRANK COTTRELL BOYCE, MILLIONS
- 2003 JENNIFER DONNELLY, A GATHERING LIGHT



INDOOR HOCKEY

MS URCH

This week has seen the much anticipated start of indoor hockey. Over 25 students across years 7-10 enjoyed their first session this week. It was great to finally get hockey up and running and we anticipate even more numbers next week. Mr MacBlain and I can't wait to start booking fixtures and progressing hockey here at BFS. Our ambition is to be a 'hockey hub' and nurture talent and participation both at BFS and within the local community.

Thank you to Mr Bower, Westbury Hockey Club, Avon Hockey, RGS Worcester and Gyles Brothers for supporting us in getting this far. We are so excited for the future of hockey here at BFS.

Wednesday – Years 7-9 - 3:00-4:30pm

Thursday – Years 10-12 - 3:00-4:30pm

Gyles Brothers Sports – 10% off sports equipment when stating you are a student at BFS (does not include any already discounted items).





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!



Who are FoBFS?
What do we do?
How can you help?

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



FREE Workshops

Is your child on the Autism Assessment Waiting List?

This exciting project is aimed at parents and carers who are on the waiting list for an Autism assessment for their child. We know that in some areas this can be a long process.

For the first time Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Parent Carer forums have teamed together and are delivering specific workshops to provide information, support and practical guidance.

A combination of professional expertise, knowledge and the lived experience of parenting a SEND child is at the basis of each workshop. Attending our workshops will give you the benefit of years of professional training and expertise. We will be running both on-line and face-to-face workshops. Our face-to-face workshops will focus on four themes, turn over for a summary, and our on-line sessions will cover a variety of themes based on feedback we receive from families.

Please sign up to your local Parent Carer Forum to be the first to get dates and locations for our workshops and on-line sessions.

Bristol Parent Carers

E: info@bristolparentcarers.org.uk
T: 07306 650 222
W: www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk

North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together

E: admin@nspcwt.org
T: 01934 440 844
W: www.nspcwt.org

South Glos Parent Carers

E: training@sglospc.org.uk
T: 07916 275 440
W: www.sglospc.org.uk



Working together for SEND families

BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET & SOUTH GLOS PARENT CARER FORUMS



Free face-to-face workshops for families awaiting an autism assessment

All workshops delivered by a SEND professional and an experienced SEND parent carer.



An Introduction to Understanding and Supporting Communication

This workshop is an introduction to effective communication strategies. All behaviour is a form of communication and so much of our day to day life centres around it; and this is no different for our children and young people. When we are unable to communicate effectively, it can cause distress, anxiety and behaviours that challenge. This session offers an insight into effective communication and strategies to develop and improve communication with your child.



An Introduction to Understanding and Supporting Anxiety

This workshop provides an insight into anxiety. Everybody experiences anxiety at various times in their lives. For our children, anxiety can be very distressing and can have a deep impact on their lives and ours. During this session we will look at how to recognise triggers for anxiety, why we experience anxiety and provide strategies to help.



An Introduction to Understanding and Supporting Sensory Differences

This workshop provides an introduction to what sensory needs are. Sensory needs are key to many behaviours and often we do not realise the impact that they have on day to day life. This session will provide tips on recognising a sensory need together with practical ways to help your child.



An Introduction to Understanding and Supporting Behaviour

All behaviour is a form of communication. Some behaviours can be really challenging for parents and carers. This can be shown as aggression, frustration or the child who shuts down and 'checks out'. Join us for our introduction to behaviour workshop designed with educational psychologists and parent carers to explore behaviour and behaviour managing strategies.



Working together
for SEND families

BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET &
SOUTH GLOS PARENT CARER FORUMS