

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

## WELCOME BACK

I have really enjoyed meeting all the year groups this week for their first face to face assembly. I spent some time explaining the significance of the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II on Monday 19 September and the momentous historical occasion we are living through.



I also explained how students can demonstrate our school values of **COMMUNITY**, **AMBITION** and **OPPORTUNITY**.



## COMMUNITY

Examples of what you can do:

- Helping younger students
- Being thoughtful and doing random acts of kindness



## AMBITION

Examples of what you can do:

- Working hard and being patient with yourself if you find work hard



## OPPORTUNITY

Examples of what you can do:

- Trying new things and participating as much as you can



## THANK YOU

I would like to thank parents and carers for ensuring that students are coming to school with the correct uniform and all their equipment. The start of term has been really positive with new Year 7 settling in very well and year groups fully engaging in their lessons.

## INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION

Mr MacBlain will be launching the first of our inter-house competitions next week so please make sure you know how students can get involved.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR

We will also start to promote extra-curricular clubs, sporting fixtures and homework club next week. We are strongly encouraging all students to stay on after school and participate in the opportunities on offer.

School is about experiencing these opportunities alongside your lessons. If you do this, you can meet new friends, learn new skills and have fun.

Do remember that school will be closed on Monday 19 September.

Best wishes



**MRS S KING**



# WELCOME TO OUR Y7 AND Y12 - IT'S BEEN GREAT TO MEET YOU





# KEY DATES

- Monday 19 September - Bank Holiday, School Closed
- Thursday 22 September - BFS Virtual Open Evening
- Thursday 22 September - U14 Girls English Schools football competition
- Monday 26 September - DofE Year 9 Bronze Award Parents Information Evening
- Thursday 29 September - Y7 & Y12 Meet the Tutor Evening
- Friday 30 September - Y10 MacBeth Workshops

## UNSAFE/INCONSIDERATE PARKING ON CONCORDE DRIVE

Please be considerate when picking up your students from school. Please be aware of the importance of driving and parking safely. This is to ensure our neighbours are not inconvenienced and students are not put at risk.

Please do not park on double yellow lines, or over driveways and please stick to the 20 mph speed limit.

Thank you for your understanding, to keep all in our community safe.



## SIGN UP FOR FREE!

It's simple! Please visit the links below to help raise money for BFS

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fobfs/>

## FRIENDS OF BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL

We are excited to be back for a new school year and hope to be involved with more events to help raise extra funds for school. A big welcome to all parents who are new to BFS. Thank you to everyone who supported the bar and raffle at 'Matilda' in July - our profits over the two nights totalled £555 - which we were delighted about.

More information about our plans for the year to follow. We always welcome new members - if you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please email: [Fobfs@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:Fobfs@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)



MR EAST

# CLASSCHARTS FOR Y7 FAMILIES


Please be aware that all Y7 students have now been set up with their IT logins. Their IT login allows them to access a range of IT packages including Outlook 365 and ClassCharts.

Students will be able to log into ClassCharts to see their homework, timetable, reward points and any detentions.

In a similar way all families have access to ClassCharts and codes for accessing this app will be sent out very shortly. Please do download the app, link to your child with the code and you will then be able to see the same range of information. You can support them in planning their homework, getting ready for the next day and in discussing their day and behaviour.

A parent guide has been published by ClassCharts and can be found here:

[https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class\\_Charts\\_for\\_parents\\_guide.pdf](https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class_Charts_for_parents_guide.pdf)



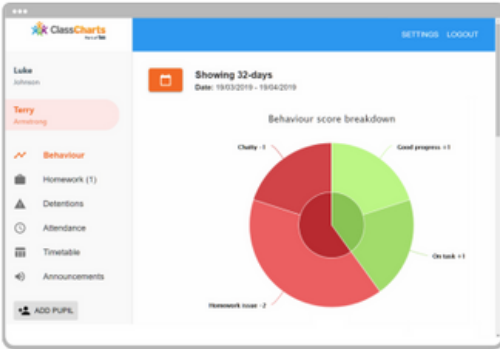
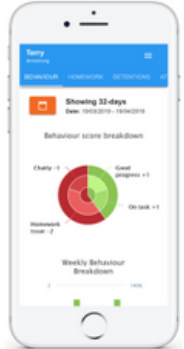
**Class Charts  
Pupil**

## What is Class Charts for parents?

Depending on how your school has set up our system, you will be able to use Class Charts to keep track of your child's **behaviour**, view **attendance** records, access their weekly **timetable**, view assigned **homework** tasks, track scheduled **detentions**, create **wellbeing** submissions and view announcements from their school.

If you have more than one child, you can access Class Charts information about your children from a single, centralised parent account.

Class Charts for parents can be accessed via our [website](#), or through our [iOS](#) and [Android](#) apps.

For more information please email [admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)





MR EAST

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Daily attendance at school ensures that students achieve their full potential. At Bristol Free School we are very keen to work with parents and students to maximise attendance and attainment in school.

In order for an attendance record to be deemed good it must be 96% or above (we recognise in some medical cases a lower level still represents good attendance). We would like to congratulate all the students who achieved this level last year, even during the very challenging circumstances of the Covid pandemic!

### PLEASE REMEMBER

An attendance record of 90% might seem good but is equal to one day missed per fortnight. If this continues from year 7 to 11, a total of six months' education will be lost.

An attendance record of 80% might seem acceptable but is equal to one day missed per week. If this continues from year 7 to 11, a total of one year's education will be lost.



### BFS EXPECTATIONS:

Holidays are not taken in term time

Medical appointments are, where possible, booked outside school hours

Students arrive promptly at 8.25am, ready for Tutor at 8.30am. Students arriving late after 8.30am will be issued with a detention. Registers currently close at 9.30am, so any student arriving late after this time will receive an unauthorised absence mark for the morning

Illness is reported before 9am by ringing the absence line 01179508157 or by using the free StudyBugs app. Illnesses lasting more than one day must be reported daily.



MR EAST

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

For medical appointments that are unavoidably within school hours, we ask that proof of the appointment is emailed to

[admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk), along with the time that the student will be collected and returned to school. Students are responsible for signing out at Student Services at the time of their collection.

### UNPLANNED ABSENCES

For unavoidable planned absences, such as religious observances, funerals, external exams and county-level sporting events, please email [admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk) for a leave of absence form. When this form is filled in and returned, your absence request will be considered by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

### GENERAL ADVICE ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Please also see attached general advice about school attendance, published by Bristol City Council. This includes information on the penalties for unauthorised holidays and poor school attendance. As a school, we prefer to work with parents rather than using penalties; however, we will issue Penalty Notices for unauthorised holidays and poor attendance, or pursue prosecutions if necessary.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



#### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION LEAFLET



Education Welfare Service

For more information please email [admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)





**MR MACBLAIN**

# INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION

I hope you have all had a relaxing and restful summer and are looking forward to getting back into the swing of COMPETITION COMPETITION COMPETITION! I am really relishing the opportunity to drive our house system forward and further embed a sense of real belonging and community spirit for our young people. For those of you who are new to BFS, we have four houses named Ashton, Blaise, Canford and Durdham and each student will belong to one of these houses for the duration of their time with us.



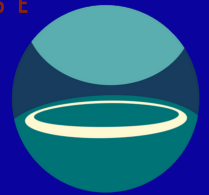
ASHTON



DURDHAM



BLAISE

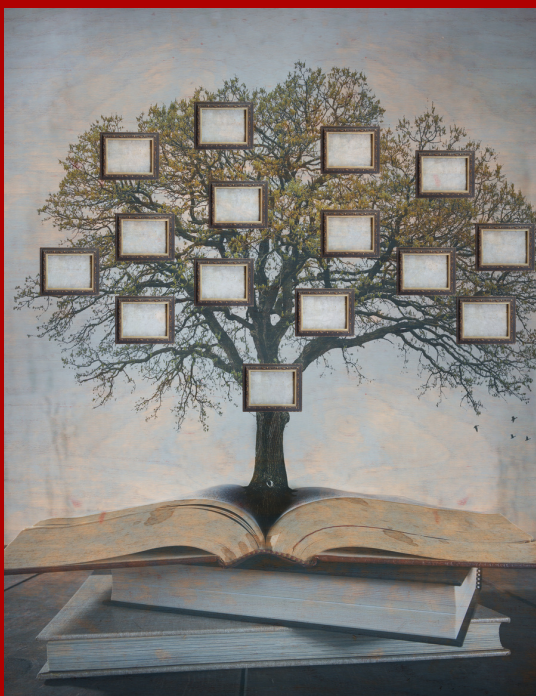


CANFORD

This year, competitions will be run through fortnightly curriculum competitions, a termly competition run by one of the Senior Leadership Team that will hopefully involve you as parent/carers and a weekly series of 'pop-up' competitions run by our 6th Form students. It will be lovely to really showcase our competition winners through the newsletter and to raise genuine excitement about securing house points.

This leads me on nicely to launch the first of our termly competitions each run by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?



So, building on our first core value of 'Community', our first 'termly competition' is entitled, Who do you think you are? I would like you, as parent/carers to work with your children and dig up some family history and find the most interesting, famous or even infamous link to your past!

These can be submitted on no more than one side of A4 paper and can include photographs or pictures (where possible) alongside a small accompanying piece of information. House Points will be awarded on a sliding scale. Each entry will receive 8 House Points, Runners up 16 and the Overall Winner 24. Deadline is the week commencing **Friday 14 October**.

Please submit via [newsletter@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

# MFL HOUSE CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION



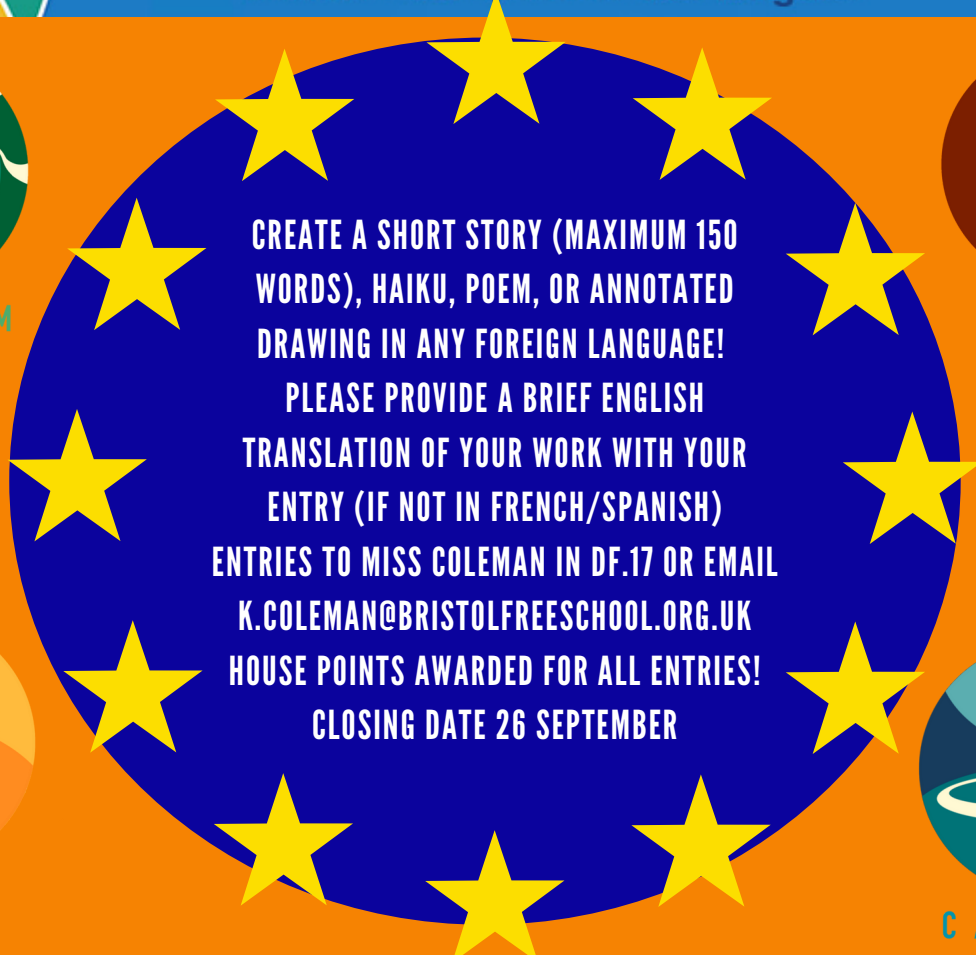
European Day of Languages  
Journée européenne des langues



DURDHAM



BLAISE



CREATE A SHORT STORY (MAXIMUM 150 WORDS), HAIKU, POEM, OR ANNOTATED DRAWING IN ANY FOREIGN LANGUAGE!  
PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF YOUR WORK WITH YOUR ENTRY (IF NOT IN FRENCH/SPANISH)  
ENTRIES TO MISS COLEMAN IN DF.17 OR EMAIL [K.COLEMAN@BRISTOLFREESCHOOL.ORG.UK](mailto:k.coleman@bristolreeschool.org.uk)  
HOUSE POINTS AWARDED FOR ALL ENTRIES!  
CLOSING DATE 26 SEPTEMBER



ASHTON



CANFORD

## CURRENT HOUSE LEADERBOARD



#1		ASHTON 1732 POINTS
#2		CANFORD 1696 POINTS
#3		DURDHAM 1678 POINTS
#4		BLAISE 1596 POINTS





# MENTAL HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING

Mental Health & Safeguarding Support, Advice & Information



Ms Townsend, Mental Health & Safeguarding Manager



Miss Hastings, Medical and Mental Health Officer

## PARENT/CARER SUPPORT OFFER - WEBINARS

Anna Freud would like to invite you to attend to attend the September/October 2022 webinar series specially tailored for parents/carers of adolescents, in collaboration with the Schools and Colleges Early Support Service.



### Parents and carers

Advice and guidance for parents and carers to help them support a child or young person experiencing poor mental health or wellbeing

TO REGISTER FOR THE WEBINARS, PLEASE SELECT THE RELEVANT GROUP AND CLICK ON THE ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK.



Anna Freud  
National Centre for  
Children and Families

TAKING

# CARE

TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### Adolescent self-harm: how to make sense of it and when to seek support

Date: Tuesday 20 September  
Time: 5-6:15pm  
Register:

<https://annafreud.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjjud-ispz4oEtV4wfuUTwWetFl6hHmDvX6m>

#### Building resilience, staying connected and nurturing your relationship with your teen

Date: Monday 26 September  
Time: 5-6pm  
Register:

[https://annafreud.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjcvcoGspzsiGtUXi2VmxqeFo8ArIm\\_y\\_2-r4](https://annafreud.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjcvcoGspzsiGtUXi2VmxqeFo8ArIm_y_2-r4)

#### Managing teen behaviour that challenges: tips and tricks

Date: Friday 30 September  
Time: 12-1pm  
Register:

<https://annafreud.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjckdumpqDkrHdR4zx-6MD1Nqqd4tva4cNYQ>

#### Weathering the storms of strong teen emotions: do's, don'ts and when to consider talking to someone

Date: Monday 3 October  
Time: 12.30-1.30pm  
Register:

[https://annafreud.zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0rdumpjMrHtwUFcsHZBXs2kH\\_bar48JW](https://annafreud.zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0rdumpjMrHtwUFcsHZBXs2kH_bar48JW)

#### Anxiety in adolescence: how can parents help?

Date: Tuesday 11 October  
Time: 5-6pm  
Register:

<https://annafreud.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwvf-Cgpz0oGNefKgyHfqM4-dH2UXN06yN8>

# BRISTOL AUTISM SUPPORT



MRS PARRY

## AUTISM SUPPORT GROUPS

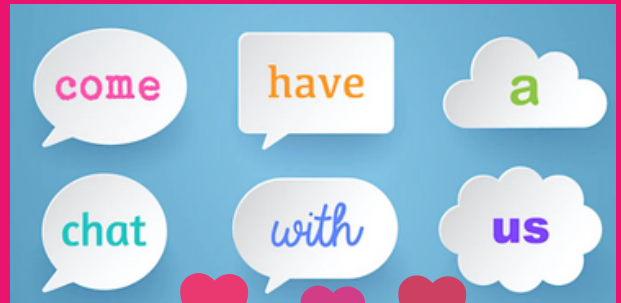
Join Bristol Autism Support with their weekly in-person support group. This group is for parents and carers of autistic children, diagnosed or undiagnosed. It is a very casual meeting and we talk about all sorts of things!

Click here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/weekly-in-person-support-group-tickets-375090585037>

## BAS SENSORY PLAY SUPPORT GROUP

Our child-friendly in-person support play session for parents and carers of autistic children, diagnosed or undiagnosed.

Whilst you and your child explore the Super Sense sensory room at the Imperial Sports Ground you can talk to Bristol Autism Support volunteers and meet other parents. This session is free but with limited spaces available so advance booking is required. Please book a ticket for each child attending.



**FIND OUT MORE HERE:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bas-sensory-play-support-group-tickets-383656245157>



## All about Autism

The basics of what you need to know to support your child

Running monthly - see Eventbrite listing for dates

 Bristol Autism Support

**FIND OUT MORE HERE:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-about-autism-tickets-272856299537>







**BRISTOL  
FREE SCHOOL**

Community, Ambition, Opportunity  
[www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk)



## Virtual Open Event

Thursday 22 September - 5:30-6:30pm

Book your place at our virtual open evening event and then book a tour of the school to see BFS in action



**BRISTOL  
FREE SCHOOL**



**You** are  
welcome  
in our  
school

Ласкаво  
просимо  
в нашу  
школу

