

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

ADVENT SEASON

Welcome to the advent season!

The student leadership team has planned a number of charity appeals before the end of term which supports our community ethos. Please ask your child for details of the rucksack appeal and the non-uniform day on the last day of term.

I am also promoting the Christmas Music and Drama Showcase on Thursday 8 December and I hope you will be able to support this wonderful event. Members of FoBFS are kindly providing the refreshments.



WELL DONE!

This was the last week of exams for Year 13 and we were very impressed with their maturity and work ethic. Results for Y11 and Y13 will be issued before the end of term.

BFS SPORT

The World Cup has been very exciting over the last few days and we are just as excited by the results of our BFS sports teams who continue their winning streak.

A big thank you to Mrs Ballard who is acting Head of PE and her team for coaching and supporting the large number of fixtures we have had over the last few weeks.



BLOOD BROTHERS

Thank you to Mrs Jerome, Mr Gowen and Mrs Meech who took KS4 drama students to see a production of 'Blood Brothers' in Cardiff. Once again, the students' conduct was exemplary and a credit to BFS.

SAFEGUARDING

I want to signpost Mr East's letter sent yesterday explaining several important safeguarding issues we have been dealing with in School.

I hope parents/carers find this update useful and we urge you to check your child's social media usage and ensure all family members' settings are private.

I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter. We hope for more football success on Sunday!

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes



MRS S KING

KEY DATES

- Thursday 8 December - Christmas Music Concert
- Tuesday 13 December - Y10 HPV Vaccinations
- Wednesday 14 December - Xmas Lunch Day
- Thursday 15 December - Half Day & Christmas Jumper Day



MR PARRY

HEAD OF BUSINESS AND CAREERS LEADER

BFS CAREERS

Today we were delighted to host Dominic Jephcott for our employer talk about careers in the management consultancy industry and how to run your own business.

Dominic is an Entrepreneur, Engineer and Management Consultant and started up Vendigital. Vendigital is a consultancy that helps enterprise organisations identify, solve, and deliver bespoke solutions to effectively manage the toughest cost and operational challenges, ranked by the Financial Times in the UK's Top 25 Leading Management Consultancies in 2019. Dominic gave an inspirational talk about how he started up his own business and gave some valuable tips to our budding entrepreneurs. He also gave an in depth talk about the management consultancy industry and the exciting career prospects in this industry.



ATTENDANCE

Please note that term-time holidays are not routinely authorised, unless there are exceptional and unavoidable circumstances. If you are thinking of booking a term-time holiday, please email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk for an 'Absence Request Form' and return it to the same address as soon as possible. Your request will then be considered. Taking a term-time holiday may result in a Penalty Charge Notice from Bristol City Council. This is currently £60 per child per adult.

FOBFS AT THE MUSIC & DRAMA SHOWCASE



FOBFS are organising a bar at the Music & Drama evening next Thursday. We will be selling drinks and a few snacks. We will have our card machine available - but cash sales for smaller orders will help us serve everyone as quickly as possible.

We are also running a raffle which will be cash only. Thanks for supporting FOBFS.



MUSIC LESSONS

Did you know that your child can have individual music tuition in a variety of instruments at BFS? Lessons are taught in school by music teachers from Bristol Beacon - to find out more visit the link below <https://bristolbeacon.org/learn-to-play/>

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium, a contribution towards the cost of music lessons may be available. If you would like to apply for financial assistance, please email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk for more information.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



MR SMITH

EQUALITY IN BFS

Equality in BFS is a topic which we as the Equality & Diversity committee believe to be very important. One thing we would really appreciate is student feedback about equality and discrimination in BFS so we know where to focus our energy this academic year.

If you've experienced any form of discrimination in school or just have ideas about what the school can do to help create a more inclusive environment, then please come along to the focus groups we'll be leading over the next few weeks. These will involve student-led, open conversations where you can share your ideas and experiences. After these discussions, we'll anonymously feed back to an organisation we'll be working with – Representation Matters – to help improve equality BFS.

Please understand you don't have to share more than you're comfortable doing; we are just really eager to get as much student feedback on this topic as we can. Announcements will be going out on ClassCharts with forms you can sign up through.



BFS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2022

BFS Shoebox Appeal 2022 *For 'Help Bristol Homeless'*

What we're looking for:

- ✓ Cold weather sleeping bags
- ✓ Thermal clothes
- ✓ Underwear (medium sized)
- ✓ Kagools
- ✓ Toiletries
- ✓ Hand warmers
- ✓ Sanitary products
- ✓ Edible treats (chocolate, biscuits etc.)
- ✓ Tesco or Greggs £5/£10 vouchers
- ✓ Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes
- ✓ Shoeboxes
- ✓ Rucksacks
- ✓ Donations on Parent Pay

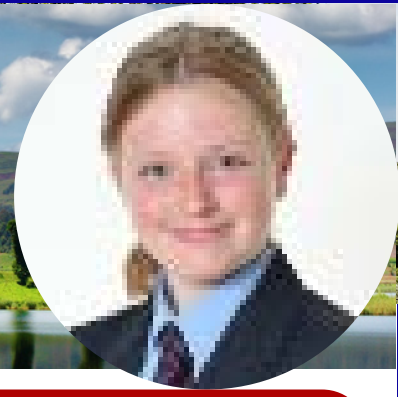
If you can, please bring some items from the list or donate on parentpay (you don't have to make a full box).

Please bring in all donations to your tutor on **Thursday 15 December**. They will send one tutee to drop them off in the Sixth Form Common Room.

To celebrate, students can also wear a Christmas jumper (on top of their normal uniform) on **Thursday 15 December**.



UGANDA TRIP



HATTIE, Y8

Back when I was in Year 5, I got invited to go on a trip to visit the Kamurasi school, which is in a town called Masindi in Uganda. One of my primary teachers, Mrs Edwards, runs a charity called Children of Masindi that supports the Kamurasi school. One special thing about the school is that it accommodates disabled children, they have a lot of children with special needs including children that are deaf, blind or disabled in other ways.

Mrs Edwards had an idea to take students from the school to visit the Budongo Rainforest, which is about 100 km away from the school. She wanted them to have the opportunity to experience the rainforest, and to learn about its importance.

My primary school (Horfield) got involved by raising money to support the trip, and they adopted the forest as their whole school theme for the year. This included composing a forest song and sending it over to the Kamurasi school. I got invited to go to Masindi with Mrs Edwards and join the trip to the rainforest. We were meant to go in May 2020 but after being pushed back due to the pandemic we finally got to go this half-term, two and a half years late!



It was definitely worth the wait though! It was an amazing experience! Uganda is an incredible country, very different to the UK! The weather was mostly very hot but there was also torrential rain and some massive thunderstorms. It felt really safe, and everyone we met was so friendly! The roads were a bit mad – with lots of motorbike taxis (called Boda Bodas), carrying several people, animals and even furniture! The Kamurasi school is very different to BFS but was amazing to look around, and the children and staff were so kind and welcoming! Over two days, we took around 140 of the children to the Budongo Rainforest. Most of them had never been there before. The rainforest was incredible, we saw several different types of monkeys but unfortunately didn't manage to see the chimpanzees that live there. It was amazing to go there with the children from Kamurasi, everyone really enjoyed it. Before we came home, we were also lucky enough to go on safari to the Murchison Falls National Park. We saw loads of wildlife, including hippos, giraffes, elephants, lions, buffalo, a leopard and an enormous crocodile. A trip to a rhino sanctuary meant that we saw all of the big five!

It was an incredible experience that I will never forget, and I plan to keep on raising money to support the Kamurasi School.

BFS COMPUTER SCIENCE

UK BEBRAS COMPUTATIONAL THINKING CHALLENGE 2021



MRS RAMANANDI

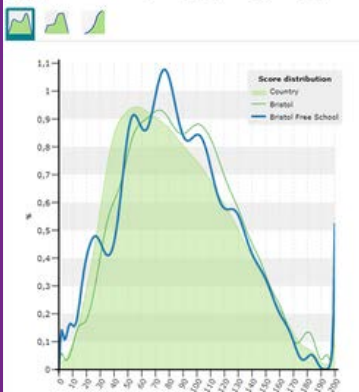
Students from all around the world participated in The Bebras Competition this year. More than 87000 students participated in Junior category, 155000 in Inter category, 29000 and 10000 students participated in seniors and elite category respectively in the UK. More than 650 students participated from BFS in The Bebras competition this year. 71 students are top 10% in the UK, all 71 students will be awarded Gold certificates and will participate in next round of Bebras competition known as The Oxford University Computing Challenge in February 2023. Congratulations to all Gold winners. In junior category 54 students achieved distinction, In Inters 97 students achieved distinction and in seniors and elite 25 students achieved distinction.



BFS STATISTICS COMPARED TO BRISTOL SCHOOLS AND NATIONALLY

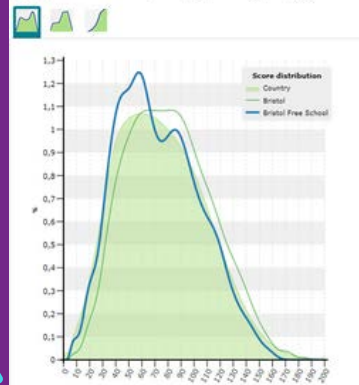
Juniors (10-12)

Description	Min	Avg	Max	Participants
Bristol Free School	2	84.8895	200	190
Bristol	2	89.4320	200	999
Country	2	83.5348	200	87066



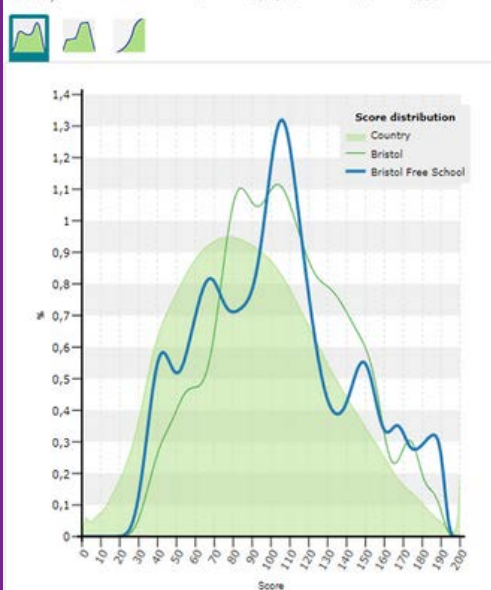
Inters (12-14)

Description	Min	Avg	Max	Participants
Bristol Free School	8	72.4780	157	354
Bristol	8	80.9070	184	1212
Country	2	74.5852	200	155746



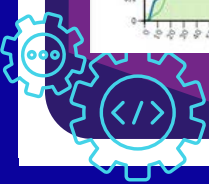
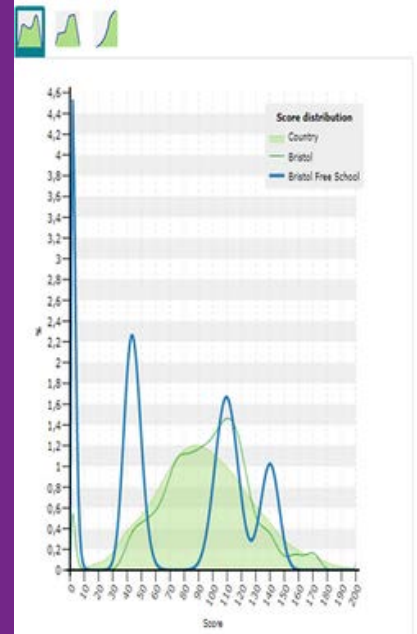
Seniors (14-16)

Description	Min	Avg	Max	Participants
Bristol Free School	35	102.9200	189	50
Bristol	35	106.3417	189	199
Country	2	89.4910	200	29946



Elite (16-18)

Description	Min	Avg	Max	Participants
Bristol Free School	2	74.6667	140	6
Bristol	2	95.2600	170	50
Country	2	94.2680	200	10368



INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS & HIGHEST ACHIEVERS IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES

WHOLE SCHOOL HIGHEST ACHIEVERS

1st: Maha, Y11 -200/200 score
2nd: Ben, Y9 - 194/200 score
3rd: Keturah, Y11 - 189/200 score

JUNIOR CATEGORY HIGHEST ACHIEVERS

1st: Dylan, Y7 -168/200 score
2nd: Ava, Y7 - 166/200 score
3rd: Ella, Y7 - 150/200 score

INTER CATEGORY HIGHEST ACHIEVERS

1st: Ben, Y9 -194/200 score
2nd: George, Y8 - 184/200 score
3rd: Harry, Y9 - 183/200 score



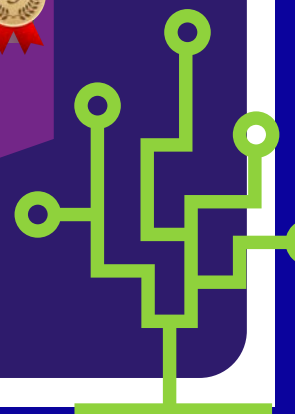
SENIOR CATEGORY HIGHEST ACHIEVERS

1st: Maha, Y11 -200/200 score
2nd: Keturah, Y11 - 189/200 score
3rd: Alex, Y11 - 176/200 score



ELITE CATEGORY HIGHEST ACHIEVERS

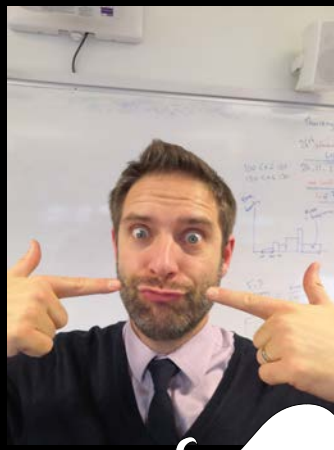
1st: Elliott, Y12 - 145/200
2nd: Jack, Y12 - 134/200
3rd: James, Y13 - 133/200





MR LAM

BFS MOVEMBER!





MR LAM

BFS MOVEMBER!



The Latin for moustache roughly translates as 'Oh my golly gosh you look so cool can I please be your friend'



MOVEMBER.COM



DON'T LOSE TRACK OF YOUR FRIENDS WHEN YOUR LIFE GETS BUSY. IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR MATES.

STAY HEALTHY; STAY CONNECTED.

MOVEMBER.COM





ENGLISH HOUSE COMPETITION

MR MACBLAIN

As part of this year's House competition, the English Department would like to celebrate your writing with the four other schools in the Trust. This theme is 'Encounter with nature'

RET

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION 2023

Entries of prose or poetry on the topic of:

Encounter with nature



Celebrate your writing with the four other schools in the Trust.

The theme this year is:

'Encounter with nature'

Interpret that as you choose!

- Word limit: 1000 words.
- Entries given to your teacher by 31st Jan 2023.
- Two school winners will be selected from each category: KS3, KS4 & Sixth Form.
- All Trust winning entries will be published in a book.
- Win an author visit for your school!



BLAISE



CANFORD



DURDHAM

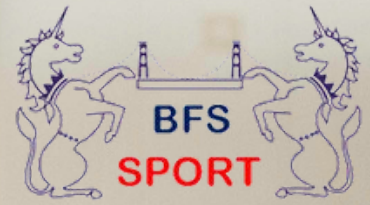


ASHTON



MRS BALLARD

BFS SPORT



WE ARE CELEBRATING SPORTING SUCCESS



Y8 NETBALL FESTIVAL

As a result of our amazing Year 8 Netball team winning the North Bristol Schools Festival a couple of weeks ago, they were now through to the Bristol Schools Final to play against the South Bristol and Central Bristol winners in a triangular to decide the overall Bristol Champions.

We faced Montpellier High first and despite going 1-0 down, the team played tremendously well together and won the game 12-2. Player of the match went to Laila H. Our second game was against St Bernadette's in which we won convincingly 7-1. Player of the match went to Lilia B-L. The girls are overall Bristol Champions - an incredible achievement. Not only did they all play fantastically well but their team spirit, ability to collaborate with each other and the respect and fair play they showed their oppositions shone through. Congratulations girls, you're all amazing!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following students on being selected to represent Bristol at the Avon Schools Cross Country Championships on 21 January - good luck!!

- Year 7 - Elsa J, Dexter S and Rory H
- Year 8 - Laila H and Lilia B-L
- Year 11 - Corinne J and Elen R





MRS BALLARD

BFS SPORT



MS URCH'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TRIP TO ABU DHABI



Last weekend my best friend and I travelled to Abu Dhabi in the Middle East to compete in the 2022 World Triathlon Championships, representing Great Britain in our age group team. I had to pre-qualify for the event back in 2021 at a British qualifier in Bournemouth. Leaving the UK late Wednesday night and arriving at Abu Dhabi on Thursday morning was a shock to the system, arriving in 30 degree heat. My bike arrived in one piece, which is always a bonus! I had two days to acclimatise and soak up the atmosphere. There were teams from all over the world from Australia, USA, Canada, through to many European and Middle Eastern and South American teams such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, Brazil and Chile. The event itself was a Standard Olympic distance of a 1.2k swim, 40k bike and 10k run. The water temperature was a very warm 28 degrees, so wetsuits were not legal. The race started well for me and I came out of the water in 4th place. The bike was super tough, and I fell down the field by some way. However as soon as I got off the bike, I made up some places and came 10th in the run leaving me in 21st position overall, with my best friend pipping me at 19th. Overall, the experience was incredible and one I will never forget. I have only been competing in triathlon for four seasons, so I want to say to each and every one of you that anything really is possible with hard work, dedication, belief in yourself and support from those closest to you. Now for the off season, lots of mince pies and a well-deserved rest!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the students involved in our swimming gala last week against Clifton High. There were some superb individual and team races. We narrowly missed out on the overall win by 50 points. Well done to all those students involved, we hope to run another gala later in the year.





Want to design a better future? Now's your chance...

An opportunity like no other to explore how tech can take on some of society's biggest issues. No qualifications needed.

Enter your tech-for-good idea for a chance to make it a reality!

Prizes and opportunities

Winners and runners up will be awarded prizes for both the 16-18 and 18-25 age categories. In addition, all shortlisted participants will receive 121 mentoring from Samsung and expert coaching as part of the competition process.

First prize

£10,000 cash prize, 3 months expert mentoring with Startup Discovery School, plus industry connections and networking opportunities!

1st

Second prize

£1,000 cash prize, plus 3 months expert mentoring with Startup Discovery School.

2nd

Third prize

£1,000 cash prize, plus 3 months expert mentoring with Startup Discovery School.

3rd

The competition process

1.

Visit bit.ly/SfT2023c

Download the Competition Entry Pack and start planning your idea.

Explore the Innovator Hub for inspiration. bit.ly/SfT2023a

2.

Enter solo or as a team of up to five.



3.

Submit your idea online by **23:59 Sunday 18th December 2022.**



4.

Those who make it to the next stage are connected with their Samsung mentor and attend expert workshops to accelerate their idea throughout 2023...

