

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I would firstly like to wish our whole school community a very Happy New Year!

The start of term has been very positive, if a little wet and soggy due to the very poor weather currently. No surprise that January is being reported as one of the wettest for some time. Students socialise in the dining hall, shelter, LRC or marquee in wet social times.

I also encourage students to wear a coat to school as sitting all day in a wet blazer is not ideal for learning.

NEW STAFF

We welcomed several new members of staff into the BFS community last week:

Mr Banks - Teacher of Music
Ms Evans - Head of Food
Mr Mills - Lead IT Support
Mrs Holmes- Administrator
Miss Cook - Assistant SENDCo
Mr King - Teacher of Humanities
Mrs Humphries - Teacher of Music
Mr Elliott - Teaching Assistant

BFS UNIFORM

A big thank you for the support with our BFS uniform. It is lovely to see that our students are looking extremely smart. We hope to run a second-hand uniform sale very soon; do contact us if you need replacement uniform as we carry a large stock of donated items.



YEAR 11

Year 11 students are very focused at present, and we are providing a wide range of support with their GCSE studies. Mr Fernandes will be sending out letters explaining the Year 11 offer and I hope parents/carers attending the subject evening last night are very clear about the next steps their child needs to take.



WORK FOR US!

We are recruiting Reading Champions and Teaching Assistants and will consider offering part-time and flexible working. This could be a great opportunity to get involved in your local school and do a job that is making a real difference to young people's life chances. Please email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk if you think you would be interested.



We are all looking forward to another productive term.

Best wishes



MRS S KING

KEY DATES

- Monday 16 January - Y12 & Y13 Art Trip to Tate Modern
- Tuesday 17 January - Old Vic Drama Workshop
- Thursday 19 January - Y12 Geography Students Outreach seminar at UWE
- Wednesday 25 January - Y9 Options Evening
- Wednesday 25 January - Y7 Aerospace Workshop
- Thursday 26 January - Y8 HPV1 Vaccinations
- Thursday 2 February - Y9 Subject Evening
- Saturday 4 February - Cyberfirst Competition Finals
- Thursday 9 February - Y11 GCSE History Trip to E5 Conference Center
- Thursday 9 February - Young Green Briton Challenge
- Friday 10 February - End of Term



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Penalty Notices and Prosecution
Penalty notices can be issued to parents and carers if they fail to ensure the regular attendance of their child at school. Most commonly they are issued for unauthorised holidays, but they can also be issued for irregular attendance at school. Penalty notice fines are currently £60 per student per parent. So, if two parents take a student on an unauthorised holiday, both parents may receive a £60 fine.

Failure to pay a penalty notice may result in a prosecution from the local authority. In cases of poor attendance at school, the local authority may deem prosecution to be a more appropriate measure than a penalty notice. A prosecution can lead to fines of up to £2500 or imprisonment.

Penalty notices and prosecutions are mentioned on attendance letters that we send home to the parents and carers of students with concerning attendance records. This is because the local authority consider it to be best practice to inform parents of the consequences of poor attendance from the earliest point that a concern is raised.

As a school, we prefer to work with parents to solve attendance issues at an early stage and only use prosecution as a final resort. If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact your child's year leader or the Attendance Team.

Many thanks

Attendance Team

DON'T FORGET WE HAVE FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS AT BFS!



AVAILABLE AT STUDENT SERVICES!



MRS BALLARD

BFS SPORT



WE ARE CELEBRATING SPORTING SUCCESS



U14 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our U14 superstars played this week in the round of 32 against Parkstone Grammar School in Poole. With the horrendous weather, we had a last minute venue change to Shaftesbury Football Club to avoid cancellation which thankfully took an hour off our travel time.

The girls took to the pitch in high gusts of winds and rain (as you can see by the photo!!) but they powered through against our toughest opposition so far. The game was well contested and took us 15 minutes to score our first goal. Emily scored the first goal, despite the barrier of defenders, making a well timed run from a through ball from Molly. The opposition equalised 5 minutes later, it remained extremely close and we went in 1-1 at half time.

The hailstones joined us for the second half and instantly Parkstone came at us but Imogen pulled out a world class one on one save to avoid us going behind. We got a free kick on the edge of the box 10 minutes into the second half and Polly stepped up. She curled it superbly into the top corner with no chance of the goalkeeper or any player getting anywhere near it.

With 15 minutes to go, Isla made it 3-1 with a great strike from outside the box. Parkstone continued to apply the pressure but with 5 minutes to go, Polly took a corner and Chloe calmly slotted in the final goal to finish 4-1.

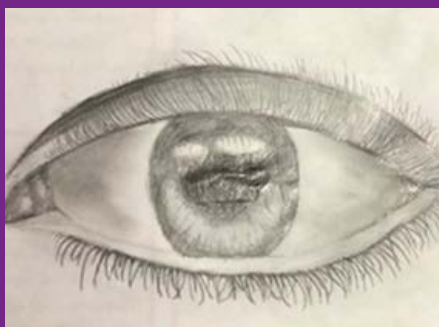
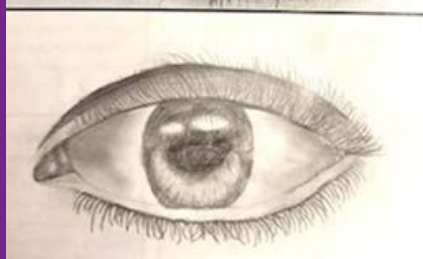
What an achievement, through to the last 16 teams in the country!! Our next opponent is Kings of Wessex School in Cheddar in two weeks' time.

THIS WEEK IN ART



MRS KINNERSLEY

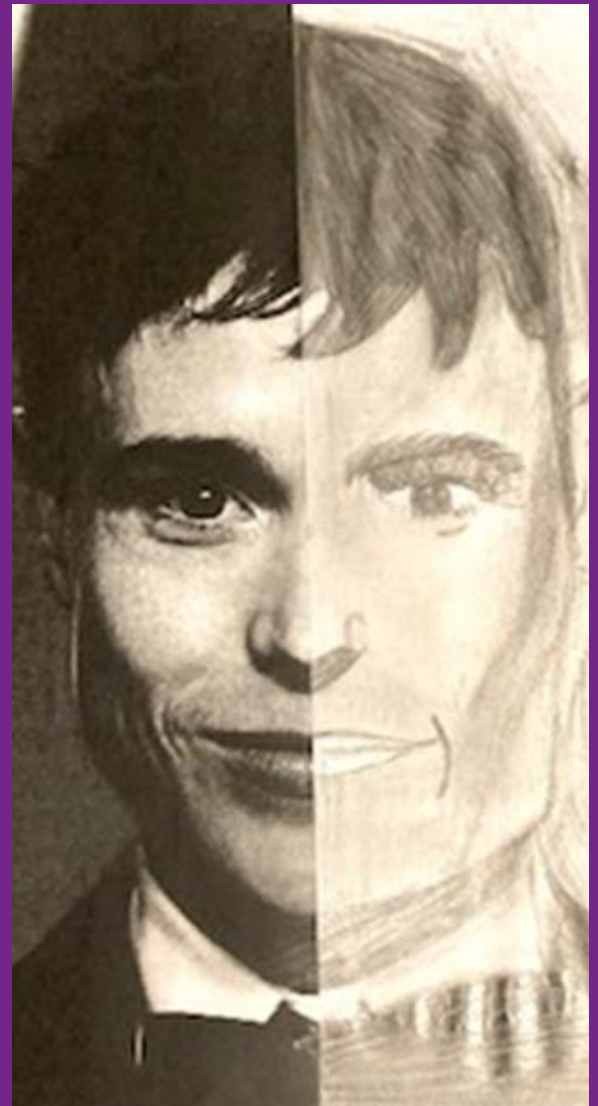
KS3 ARTWORK



THIS WEEK IN ART

MRS KINNERSLEY

KS3 ARTWORK



THIS WEEK IN DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



MRS STREET

COMPETITION: T-SHIRT UPCYCLE DESIGN

The t-shirt is a modern classic, everyone owns at least one or more likely far too many!

T-shirts come in so many different styles and colours, with prints and patterns, logos and labels. People of all ages wear them, male and female, they can be very cheap to buy and the variations are limitless. BUT as with all clothes they have a big impact on our environment right from the very beginning of their life as raw fibre, through to the end of their life when they are no longer needed or wanted.

As one of a growing number of people that are unhappy about clothing waste ..you are going to help tackle the problem. Instead of your old T-shirts going to landfill and buying more new things, try 'up-cycling' a T-shirt that you were about to bin into a new improved version. Alternatively, turn it into a new product with a different purpose... such as a bag, scarf, cushion.



YOUR TASK!

- Start by taking a photo of your T-shirt(s) before you have done anything to them. Photograph on a person or a mannequin (which we have in school) or hung up on a coat hanger.
- Get creative! Look at magazines, the internet, books for ideas
- Take a one or more photos of your creation(s)
- Put both your photos onto 1 page, with a simple 'Before and After' typed or written on it.
- In no less than 50 words explain why you chose the T-shirt, how you decided what to do with it, what you think of the result and what you would do next either to improve it or to make another creation.



NO CAMERA?
USE THE ONES IN SCHOOL



BIKEABILITY HOLIDAY COURSES

Ardagh Community Trust

February half term

Levels 2 and 3



Life Cycle  UK

Book now!

bit.ly/bikeability-courses



Or scan to book



GET CYCLING THIS FEBRUARY!

A great way for kids to stay active and learn age-appropriate cycle skills.

Our Bikeability courses will help your child to ride confidently, develop road safety & planning skills.

Our courses:

- Bikeability Levels 2 and 3
- Price: From £20 per child
- Taught by qualified, DBS-checked instructors

Life Cycle  UK