

# Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been a positive first full week at BFS. Students and staff are now back in the routines of a new academic year. Thank you for the excellent standard of school uniform, your support with this is much appreciated. I received a lovely message from a member of the local community this week saying how smart our students looked walking to and from school.

## MCAS AND STUDENT PORTAL



I hope you have all managed to access the MCAS app and all students are using Student Portal. This is the place where you will find all the information about your child, and students can see their timetable, homework, important messages etc. We have had a record number of house points awarded this week which you can also see. If you do experience any difficulties using these new systems, please contact the school through admin and we can support you to get access.

## PARENT UPDATE - WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

After the successful Headteacher Update in Term 6, we invite all parents and carers to a similar virtual event on Wednesday 27 September at 5.00pm. The intention is to share the school priorities 23-24, exam results, some procedure changes, safeguarding updates and answer some generic questions you may have. A link will be emailed next week so you can access this virtual event.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR OFFER

I am pleased to let you know that teachers and staff have been offering extra-curricular clubs to Miss Board, our coordinator, and we will be sharing our extra-curricular offer next week. A reminder, the LRC will be open after school for students to use for homework or reading-related activities. We want all students to take advantage of these opportunities, so they grow and develop as a whole person. You may find that you have a hidden talent or interest that you never realised!

## KEY DATES

- Wednesday 20 September - U14 Netball Team (National Cup) v Millfield School 11.00am - 5.00pm
- Monday 25 September - DofE Information Evening for Y9 Parents
- Wednesday 27 September - Virtual Parent Update 5.00pm - 5.45pm
- Monday 2, Monday 9 & Monday 16 October - Year 7 Team Building at Clifton College
- Thursday 5 October - Main School Open Evening 4.30pm - 7.30pm
- Friday 6 October - late school start (arrive at 10.50am)
- Monday 9 - Friday 13 October - Y13 Geography Residential Trip
- Tuesday 17 October - Sixth Form Open Evening 4.30pm - 6.30pm



**MRS S KING**

# FRIENDS OF BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL

- Quiz Night – Friday 13 October (unlucky for some, lucky for one winning team!). A link to get tickets for the School Quiz on Friday 13 October will be in next week's newsletter and also on Facebook and WhatsApp. Book early to avoid disappointment.
- Do you enjoy Online shopping? The EASIEST way of supporting FoBFS is by using [Easyfundraising](#). It's a hassle-free way of earning extra money for our school. Please use the link or install the Easyfundraising App on your phone. All you must do is assign BFS as the place you want funds to go to. There are lots of online shops on there and it's straightforward to use.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Please remember that pupils need to enter and leave the school site through the student gate on Concorde Drive, and that the entrance on Burghill Road is not a school entrance and shouldn't be used.

Also, please do not drive along Concorde Drive at the start and end of the day, and do not park near the school gates or in the triangular side roads opposite the school.

## NASAL FLU VACCINATIONS

Children in Reception to Year 11 are being offered flu vaccinations this winter to help protect them from flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia. Vaccinating your child will also help protect you, your family and friends. The flu vaccine is administered using a nasal spray and is free and painless. Please ensure you complete your [consent form](#). If your child is unable to receive the nasal flu vaccine, community catch-up clinics will be available. Please contact [sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net](mailto:sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net) or 0300 1245515 for more information.



# BFS MFL



MISS COLEMAN

## HOME LANGUAGE GCSE RESULTS!

Congratulations to Ido (Hebrew), Pani (Persian), Sama and Maraj (Arabic), Charlotte (French), Alan (Polish), Stephen (Cantonese) and Klea (Italian) for achieving excellent results in their home language GCSEs this summer. We are very proud of their achievements. If anyone speaks a language at home and would like to consider taking a GCSE or A level in it, please come to see Miss Coleman in DF17 to discuss.



## MFL HOUSE COMPETITION

Design a Christmas card! (We apologise for mentioning Christmas in September!) Create your BFS House Christmas Card (with a languages theme) and bring to Miss Coleman in DF17. You can also submit your design electronically to [k.coleman@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:k.coleman@bristolfreeschool.org.uk). We will be awarding a winner and a runner up for each house. There will be 20 house points available for the winner and 10 for the runner-up. There will also be house points for every entry! The entries must be submitted by the end of Wednesday 28 September and the winners will be announced on Friday 29 September. The overall winner will be printed to generate sales for all the house charities in December. Good luck to all!





# BFS HISTORY

MR RUSTON

## YEAR 9 BATTLEFIELDS TRIP



Students at the Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge



Bella and Ben laying a wreath at the Menin Gate Ceremony, Ypres, Belgium.



Students at Essex Farm Cemetery reconstructing the transfer of an injured soldier (Nathan) to a casualty clearing station.

At the end of the summer term, a wonderful group of our Year 9 students went to visit some of the historic sites of the First World War in Belgium and Northern France. Travelling with Zeitgeist Tours, who were fantastic at bringing the past to life, our delightful students experienced first-hand some of the challenges faced by the soldiers and medical personnel on the Western Front between 1914-1918.

Immersing themselves in the history of the period, students explored WW1 trenches, found original artifacts (including finding a mortar shell in a farmer's field!), were able to use a genuine WW1 travel camera previously owned by a British soldier, practised in the field medical techniques and even held and fired an original Lee Enfield Rifle!

What was most impressive was how well the students conducted themselves at each of the sites we visited, many of which were places of remembrance and mourning. This included participating in the daily Menin Gate ceremony in Ypres with the laying of a wreath to commemorate the sacrifices made by individuals from our own Bristol community. The number of compliments we received from members of the public, local businesses and other tour groups, was a testament to how fabulous they were and such great ambassadors for Bristol Free School.

Our trip concluded with a visit to Talbot House, a place behind the front lines where soldiers went to reflect, relax and unwind after the horrors of war and it felt like an appropriate place to end our journey. A massive thank you to all the staff and students who helped to make the trip happen - we are already looking forward to doing it again next year!

### STUDENT VIEWS:

Nathan - 'I'd like to have trips like the WW1 trip every year!'

Ben - 'I really enjoyed visiting the memorials and important sites of battles and learning all about them!'

Mia - 'The trip was a lot of fun and the best way to learn while also getting first-hand knowledge!'





# BFS COMPUTER SCIENCE



## YEAR 12 CYBEREPQ PROGRAM MRS RAMANANDI

- An exciting opportunity to participate in the UK's first and only cyber security EPQ program.
- It is worth 28 UCAS points.
- It is fully funded.
- Duration of the program is from September to March.
- No programming expertise needed.
- It brings lots of opportunity for those who want a career in Cyber security or want an additional degree in the cyber world.

For more details [click here.](#)

To enrol for CyberEPQ, email Mrs Ramanandi.

The Cyber Extended Project Qualification  
(The CyberEPQ).

Brought to you by CII Sec



## YEAR 8 CYBERFIRST GIRLS COMPETITION

Registration is now open for the 2023 CyberFirst Girls Competition!

The CyberFirst Girls Competition aims to support girls interested in a career in cyber security. Whatever your ability, from beginner to expert, the CyberFirst Girls Competition is an opportunity to learn something new about cyber security. It's a group competition and girls can participate in groups of four. Bristol Free School came second in last year's competition!

Key dates for 2023-34

Registration opens: 25 September 2023

Online qualifier: midday 20 - midday 29  
November 2023

Regional and Independent finals:  
February 2024

Awards day: March 2024

Please email Mrs Ramanandi at [n.ramanandi@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:n.ramanandi@bristolfreeschool.org.uk) to enrol or for any further information.

You can come and see me at CG14  
Tuesday to Friday breaktime or  
lunchtime.

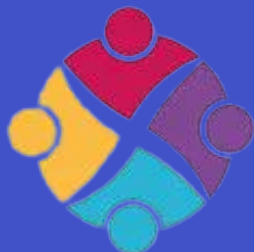


# BFS SEND



MISS JOHNSON

## IGNITE BRISTOL



A comprehensive directory of inclusive sporting clubs and activities across Bristol.

## BIBIC



Online training seminars for parents and carers relating to young people's neurological and developmental difficulties.

## BPC



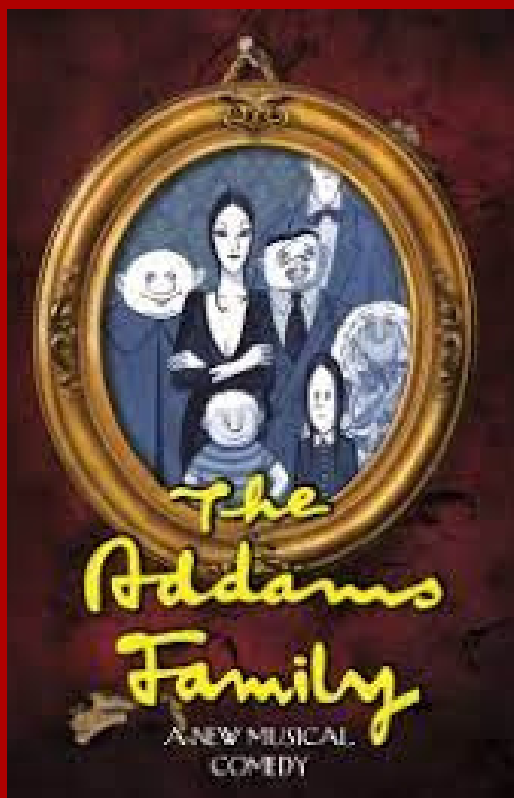
Drop-in coffee morning at Greenway Centre on the first Thursday of every month from 9.15 - 10.30



# BFS DRAMA



## SCHOOL MUSICAL!



We are excited to announce that rehearsals for this year's musical, The Addams Family, will be starting soon! Auditions will be taking place from 3pm on Wednesday 20 September (for Year 7/8) and Thursday 21 September (for Year 9-13) in DG01.

If you are interested in performing, you will need to prepare a section of one of the two following songs:

[What If Part 1 - The Addams Family](#) - YouTube Time: 0 - 1.08

[One Normal Night - The Addams Family](#) - YouTube Time: 0 - 0.48

Please also fill out this form if you want to be involved in any way (performers/musicians/crew/choreographers):

<https://forms.office.com/e/GSvZ5daNe8>

You also need to attend a short meeting on Monday 18 September at 3pm - 3:15pm in the Drama Hall to find out more about the audition process - this is for everyone involved, whether you want to be part of the cast, crew or band!