



Dear parents, carers and students

Welcome back to Term 2. It has felt more like winter this week with the clocks going back and the stormy weather. Students have returned to school in good spirits and have settled back into the routines of school very well.

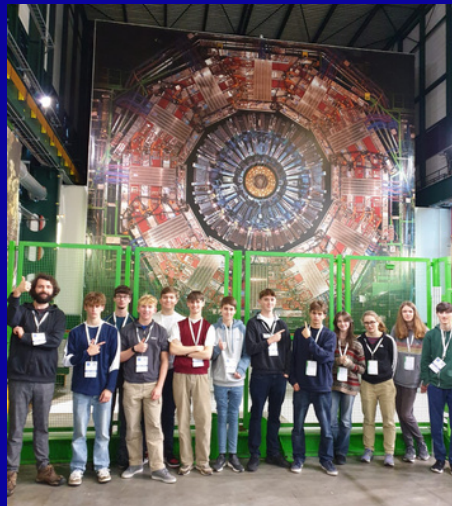
MACBETH WORKSHOP

This week Year 10 enjoyed a visiting theatre company who performed a workshop on the themes in Macbeth. Thank you to Mr Gowen for organising this opportunity and well done to Year 10 who engaged very positively. We hope this will reinforce the learning in English lessons last term.



Y12 CERN TRIP

Also, this week a group of sixth form science students have visited Cern in Switzerland to see the Hadron Collider and to study the structure of matter and particles. Thank you to Mr Lally and Ms Board who organised this exciting educational trip.



Y11 AND Y13 MOCKS

Year 11 and Year 13 have started to revise for their upcoming mocks that start on Monday 20 November. It is very important that students see these exams as essential practice in their GCSE journey. Teachers have given students a lot of revision resources and guidance but these important weeks leading up to the mocks really do count and will support a successful set of mocks.

REMEMBRANCE

Next week we plan to hold a full Remembrance ceremony with the whole school community on Friday 10 November at 11am. Thank you to Mr MacBlain who has organised the special event to remember all those who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts. This is particularly important at this current time when conflict across the world is sadly escalating.



I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter.



MRS S KING

KEY DATES



HOUSE COMPETITION

- Wednesday 8 November - BEP Climate Challenge Event at City Hall and Higher Education Options for Food Students at Bath University
- Tuesday 14 - Wednesday 15 November - Nasal Flu Vaccinations by Sirona (Y7 - Y11)
- Thursday 16 November - Debating Event at Redmaids School 6.00pm
- Thursday 16 November - NO CLUBS/DETENTIONS DUE TO STAFF TRAINING

Battle of the houses! Help your team to keep the Giant Jenga Tower up and win points for your team.

Friday 10 November
Lunchtime on the MUGA

Calling all Neurodivergent 11-14 year olds!



Do you wish your class-mates and teachers understood neurodivergence better?

Would you like to share your experiences in a film?

What will it involve? You will tell us about times when you have felt misunderstood or pushed out, and/or times when people have welcomed you as your true self.

The conversation will be filmed, or you can film yourself at home on a phone - we'll send the questions.

Filming 18th Nov at Bannerman Road School, Easton

Call/text Poppy on
07792 189909
for more info



MURMURATION
COMMUNITY
THERAPY

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY AUTUMN COMPETITION!

The Art Department are launching a new house competition this month. The aim is to create a piece of wonderful art, sculpture, craft or photography based on the theme of 'Autumn'. All entries should be submitted to Mrs Day in the Art Department by Thursday 30 November. Include your full name, Tutor Group and House on your entry. Multiple entries welcomed! Points for all entries and big points for the Houses of the winners. All information will be posted on the art notice board this week. If you have any further questions, speak with Mrs Day or Mrs Stokes.

SEND COFFEE MORNING

Are you a parent of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), looking for support, information, and a friendly community to connect with? Look no further! Bristol Parent Carers warmly invites all families to our monthly SEND Coffee Morning at the Greenway Centre in North Bristol.



Southmead Greenway Centre

9:15-10:30



7th Sept
5th Oct
2nd Nov
7th Dec

Doncaster Rd,
BS10 5PY
Free Parking
Buses: 2 & 76



NASAL FLU VACCINATIONS YEAR 7-11

The e-consent process for the Nasal Flu vaccinations, which will be administered by the Sirona Team on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 November, will close at 9.00am on Friday 10 November. If you have not already completed the e-consent to confirm whether you do/do not give consent for your child to have this vaccination, please do so via [this link](#) before Friday 10 November.

NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

Rebekah Priest will be joining the BFS Governing Body as the new Parent Governor.

Thank you to all candidates for applying and thank you to those parents who took the time to vote. For more information about our governors please visit our [governance page](#)

careers notices

AIRBUS

MISS NORTON
CAREERS LEAD

EMPLOYER TALKS



For our first Employer Talk of the year, we hosted Natasha Ison, Head of Cost Accounting UK and Head of Finance Early Careers at Airbus, who has worked at Airbus for 22 years. She spoke to interested Year 10 - 13 students about her role at Airbus and busted the myth that working in finance is all about numbers and accounting!

She talked about how lots of her role is meeting and working with stakeholders, and looking at areas of the business that could be made more efficient. She covered all the different areas of the business, including procurement, HR, manufacturing and engineering, showing the breadth of roles available in a large business.

She also brought with her Karem Jarbough, who is on the Airbus graduate programme for engineering, and Kushal Sharma, who is an intern taking a year out while studying at university. They both spoke about what led them to Airbus and about the programmes that they are on. They also talked about routes into working at Airbus including the wide variety of apprenticeships available. This was of particular interest to our Year 13 students who are now able to apply for such apprenticeships, ready for a September 2024 start.

Applications are open until February, but it is recommended that students apply as soon as possible. You can find out more about their apprenticeships [here.](#)



UPCOMING EMPLOYER TALKS

- Radiography - 10 November
- Aerospace Engineering at Stirling Dynamics - 17 November
- Physiology - 24 November
- English Literature - 1 December

NHS VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

The NHS Allied Healthcare Work Experience is running a Virtual Programme commencing on Sunday 5 November for students in Year 10 - 13. For more information and to register a place, please [click here.](#)



SOLICITOR APPRENTICESHIP

Womble Bond Dickinson have launched their Solicitor Apprenticeship Programme for September 2024. Applications are open until Thursday 7 December - [please click here](#) to read more and to apply.



YEAR 12 WEX

On Wednesday 10 July - Friday 12 July, year 12 students will be conducting work experience. This is a great opportunity for students to get out of school and into an employment sector of interest. Work experience can be difficult to find, especially in the current climate of increased hybrid working. We are therefore trying to support students with this by building a bank of placements. If you think you or someone you know would be able to offer a placement to one of our students on these dates, please email careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk. This would really help us and will no doubt be much appreciated by our students.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**





MS CORRIGAN

BFS ORACY



BEP YOUTH TALKS

Back in February, Year 9 and Year 12 students were given the opportunity to apply to be part of 'Youth Talks'. Youth Talks is a public speaking competition run by BEP, connecting schools across Bristol. It is an opportunity for students to have a platform to communicate their passion for a topic, hobby or activity. To kick start the programme, we welcomed Anthony from the Carrot Foundation and Dan Edozie onsite to explain the scheme in more detail to all students in Year 9 and Year 12.

Following this, Barney Grenfell from Ignited Presenting ran a workshop with the final 12 students. Students then wrote, prepared and practised their speeches before our internal Youth Talks competition in Term 6.

Following this, three of our Year 9 (now Year 10) students proudly represented BFS at the final BEP event, with students from Cotham, Clifton College, Clifton High and St Brendan's also speaking. The event was held at the theatre at BGS with a large audience made up of family members, staff and students from a range of BEP schools.



We are incredibly proud of Maddie, Jacob and Rosie who spoke on their chosen subjects with passion, humour and confidence. It was a fantastic afternoon showcasing oracy talent.



MADDIE

I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn how to create a well-structured speech and how to present yourself when speaking. The final presentation was very nerve-wracking, but I am glad I did it!

VOICE 21



We are delighted to announce that we are continuing to work with Voice 21, the national oracy education charity, to develop our students' oracy skills. In school, oracy is a powerful tool for learning; by teaching students to become more effective speakers and listeners we empower them to find their voice for success in school and life. It underpins young people's progress and development: their literacy and numeracy, academic attainment, wellbeing, confidence and future prospects in further or higher education and employment.

Voice 21 works with over 900 schools across the country with a mission to transform students' learning and life chances through talk. We will be working with their expert team to develop a high-quality oracy education across our school life, including our culture, curriculum, and teaching and learning.



BFS SCOUTS NEPAL TRIP



Previously, we reported that a group of intrepid BFS students would be embarking on the trip of a lifetime; an incredible 17-day voluntary and educational expedition to Nepal!

They and Mr Milstead are all members of a local Scout Active Support Unit better known as Namaste Nepal SAS, which departed for Nepal on 12 October.

These 10 BFS students had to apply and satisfy the rigours of a selection process to be offered a place on the team of young people from the Bristol Cabot District. Subsequently, over the past year they attended a series of training sessions and 2 weekend preparation camps covering everything from language and culture to fitness and sanitation, not to mention dealing with mozzies and leeches!



The main purpose of Namaste Nepal SAS team's expedition is to develop existing, cross-cultural links with the southern region of Meghauri in Chitwan Province. Scouting groups established there in partnership with Namaste Nepal have flourished and provide opportunities for many Nepalese young people to develop invaluable life skills, broaden their experiences and contribute to their wider communities.

This week we are very excited to report that, after a very long journey, the team arrived safely in Meghauri last Saturday. They received an official but wonderfully warm welcome ceremony from the people of Meghauri, have been acclimatising to the 30-degree heat and have already had wonderful opportunities to immerse themselves in the sights, sounds and flavours of the local area.

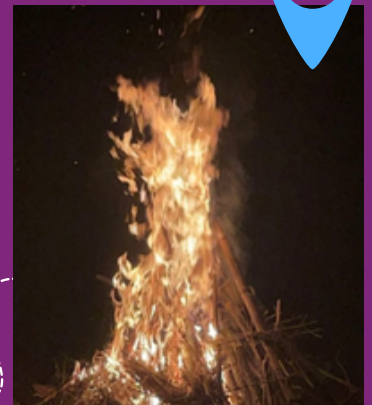




BFS SCOUTS NEPAL TRIP



Having had the delight of already seeing 40 new Nepalese scouts invested, they then had the job of rolling 300 neckerchiefs for the Nepalese Scouts coming to the main event: Jungle Jamboree camp! In partnership with local organisers, the team prepared for and ran the camp.



In addition, the team used this opportunity to do some enquiring into the Nepalese young people's understanding of road safety. This will assist with information gathering for a research programme (a collaboration between UWE Bristol and Kathmandu Medical College Public Limited, Nepal) to address the growing problem of road traffic injuries in Nepal.



Following the camp, the team traveled to the city of Pokhara on Phewa Lake, in central Nepal (known as a gateway to the Annapurna Circuit, Himalayan trail). There they had a rest day and visited the World Peace Pagoda before venturing on an exhilarating 4-day Whitewater Rafting expedition or Himalayan Trek.

To make all this possible, over the past 12 months the team and their families have worked incredibly hard to climb and reach the summit of their individual (£2,750+) and team (£15K) fundraising mountains! Many BFS parents and families have given their support through enjoying a Namaste Nepal event: coming along to one of the Pub Quiz nights, reeling around at the Burns Night Ceilidh, going along to the Easter Trail, joining in with the Kids Discos, Clothes Swish or 'Strictly Nepal', buying raffle tickets and much more. Thank you so much!



It is hoped that when the team returns, the BFS contingent will be able to share their experiences with the wider school community and play a part in re-establishing former links, which BFS had with a school and its community in Nepal. For further information and to follow the team's progress on their epic adventure, you can visit Instagram [#namasteneal2023](#) or www.facebook.com/namastenealSAS. We wish them good health, much fun and safe travel and look forward to hearing all about it after their return to school on 31 October.



MISS JONES

BFS GEOGRAPHY



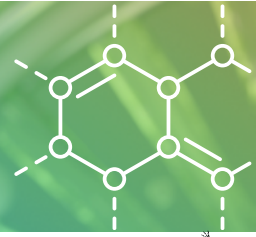
YEAR 13 SLAPTON SANDS TRIP



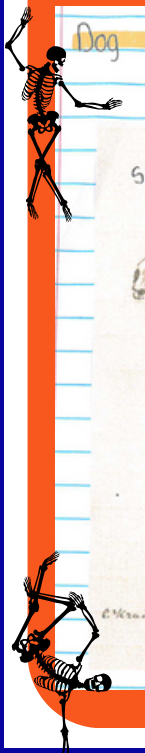
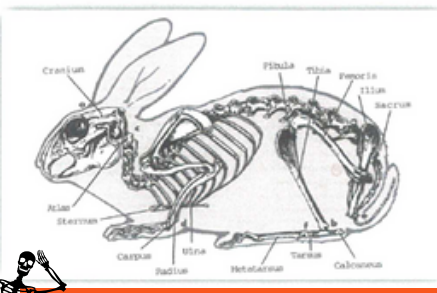
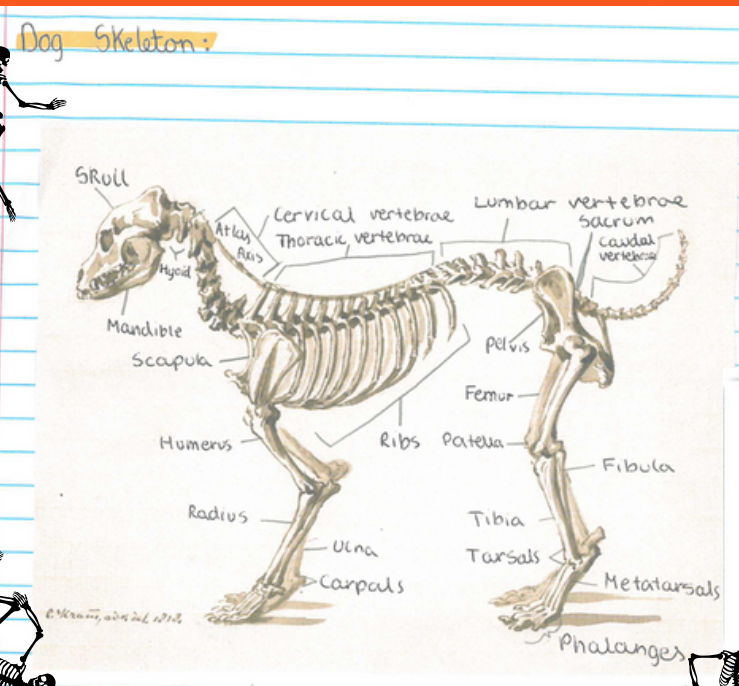
Before half term, our Year 13 Geography students took part in a residential for their Geography NEA coursework. They got stuck into human and physical geography fieldwork, investigating social inequalities in Plymouth and the formation of coastal landforms in Slapton, Devon. We were really impressed with the students' collaborative work in collecting field data as a team and their enthusiasm in trying different types of fieldwork. Well done Year 13!



BFS SCIENCE



7TG5 SCIENCE HOMEWORK





BFS SPORT



MISS LUDWELL YEAR 9 AND 10 RUGBY TRAINING



Year 9 and 10 had the privilege of being trained by Deago Bailey this week, an ex-BFS student and Bristol Bears rugby player. We are very thankful to Deago for spending his free time with us and giving the students an amazing experience that they will not forget. Deago put the students through multiple drills and ended with a game of tag rugby.



Despite the cold and being incredible muddy, (sorry parents and guardians!) the students were smiling non-stop and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of training with Deago.

Mr Tolman, Ms Giltrow and I were very impressed with the students' positive conduct and "can do" attitude. Despite us being absolutely freezing on the sidelines, the students' enthusiasm and enjoyment made it worth it.



YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NETBALL



We hosted RGS on Thursday 19 October for Year 7, 8 and 9 Netball, taking the win across all three-year groups! It was Year 7 students' first competitive fixture for BFS, and they demonstrated their outstanding knowledge of the game and their sporting prowess, taking a 9-6 lead.

Year 8 absolutely shone on the court! Some incredible game play and a team of pocket rockets who are full of energy and enthusiasm for the game, taking a 7-1 win. Year 9 started off the afternoon of games being absolute role models for the younger years. Incredible teamwork and game play.

Their passion for the game always comes through and their win is completely down to their cohesion. An incredible 15-0!

MISS SLATER



Well Done!





BFS MFL



MRS ROBBINS EAL JACARI SESSIONS



This week we held our first English as an additional language (EAL) mentoring session for some students who are developing and mastering their level of English at BFS. We have a team of fantastic Sixth Form EAL mentors who have been fully trained to deliver sessions to support younger students with their language development.

The first session was full of 'getting to know you' games, lots of chatting, laughter and completion of learning journals. Our Sixth Form mentors did such a fantastic job leading and delivering their sessions and all attendees made a fantastic effort to participate and get involved, even after an already busy day of learning! Well done to all involved and a big thank you to Aggie from Jacari for coming in to help set-up and support these weekly sessions.

If you are a Sixth Form student who would like to get involved with this mentoring programme, please speak to Mrs Robbins in DF15. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, and it is a fantastic way for you to get some additional experience and an additional UCAS reference. If you are a student who speaks English as an additional language and would like some extra help, please also speak to Mrs Robbins in DF15.



BFS ENGLISH

MR GOWEN MACBETH WORKSHOP

The English Department were delighted to welcome Sky Blue Theatre to the school who led an engaging and interactive workshop for all of Year 10. Students were directed through the play, with many enthusiastic young actors taking to the stage to deliver a superb Macbeth performance. Both the costumes and delivery of Shakespeare's most famous lines were a sight to behold.

This was followed with the year group taking charge and directing the actors through a performance of Act 2 Scene 2 - they decided they'd liked it to be performed with Lady Macbeth whispering her words to show her control whilst she treated her husband like a child. This was then followed by a performance of 'what if Macbeth was set in an Australian McDonalds?'

I was delighted to see the enthusiasm BFS students brought to the workshop, especially those who had the courage to perform in front of their peers and teachers. Sky Blue Theatre were very complimentary of our students and we're certain that they all have a much better understanding of this key GCSE text.





BESHISTORY



MR DIGNAN

BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMPETITION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FRANK BAILEY

Frank Bailey was born in Guyana and came to England in 1953 as part of the Windrush Migration. He was a member of the Fire Brigades Union and has Black people who are not being employed.

Representative of the Fire Brigades Union in 1955. This made him the first Black man to be elected to the office of Fire Brigades Union in England.

However, he did not think that he was the only Black man in the Fire Brigades Union. He was well known, respected, and well liked. He was a lot of fun to be around and was a great person to be around. He was a lot of fun to be around and was a great person to be around.

MARGARET busby

She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history.

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MARY SEACOLE

She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history.

She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history.

Debbie Allen

Debbie Allen was a Black girl who dreamed of one day being a Black force. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history. She was a pioneer in the field of Black history.

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There were some excellent entries submitted for the Black History Month competition. Students did a great job of researching the lives of some lesser-known black figures from history whose stories have not been recognised as much as they should have.

Well done to all entrants but prizes for the top three went to:

- Matilda - Year 9 Canford
- Chloe - Year 9 Canford
- Fakryia - Year 7 Blaise



Well done all!

BFS COMPUTER SCIENCE



The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organized in over 30 countries and is designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. Each participant gets 45 minutes to answer 15 multiple-choice questions that focus on computational and logical thinking. Next week, all students will participate in Bebras Computing Competition during their Computer Science lesson.

Competition date: Week starting Monday 6 November 2023.

Students can practise by going to the Bebras website, clicking on Students practice, choose the correct age group and click start.

MRS RAMANANDI BEBRAS COMPUTING COMPETITION 2023



THIS WEEK
IN ART...

YEAR 7/8 ART CLUB AUTUMN CERAMICS PROJECT



INKTOBER HOUSE COMPETITION!

After an amazing Inktober Competition, with almost 275 entries, the Sixth Form Head Students have agreed the House winners!

1



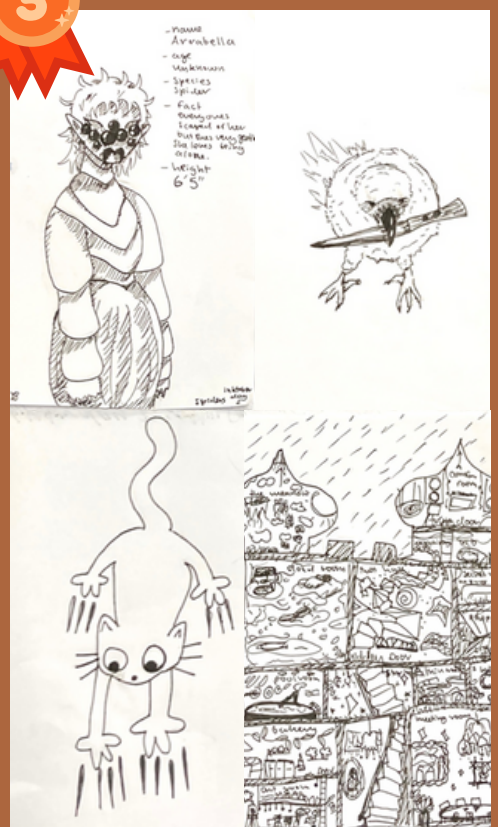
Emily in 8TG4 won first prize with multiple entries for Ashton House - her designs are beautiful!

2



Second place was Emily in 8TG1 in Durdham House.

3



A close third place was Daisy in 9TG7 in Blaise House.

You can see some of the best entries on display in the Art Department. Unfortunately, we couldn't display them all because there were so many pictures! Well done to everyone who entered. All entries have won points for their House. A big shout out must go to Mrs Jerome's Tutor Group 8TG1 who entered over 100 Inktober drawings, giving Durdham a whopping number of opportunity house points. Great work!



STUDENT WELLBEING & SAFEGUARDING

Wellbeing & Safeguarding Support, Advice & Information



Miss Hastings, Medical and Mental Health Officer



WEBINARS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



LOW MOOD IN ADOLESCENCE

MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER
12:15 - 13:15



[REGISTER HERE](#)



ANXIETY IN ADOLESCENCE

THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER
12:00 - 13:00



[REGISTER HERE](#)



ADOLESCENT SELF-HARM

TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER
17:00 - 18:15

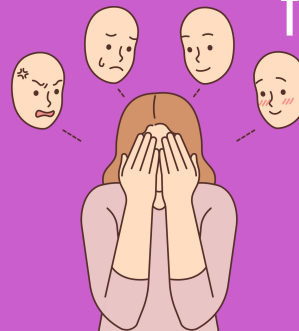


[REGISTER HERE](#)



WEATHERING THE STORMS OF STRONG TEEN EMOTIONS

TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER
12:30 - 13:30



[REGISTER HERE](#)



STAYING CONNECTED AND NURTURING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR TEEN

MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER
17:00 - 18:00



[REGISTER HERE](#)



MANAGING TEEN BEHAVIOUR

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER
12:30 - 13:30



[REGISTER HERE](#)



REMEMBRANCE AT BFS

On Friday 10 November, we will be running a whole school event for Remembrance.

Until then, poppies will be sold during tutor and lunch with all donations going to the Royal British Legion.

