



# Annual Awards

## 2024

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL  
OF OUR AWARD WINNERS!**







Yesterday we celebrated the achievements and talents of 166 award winners. It was a special evening, attended by students and their families, and one that is so important in our school's culture and ethos. We were treated to a number of music and drama performances during the event which was a real highlight. Students and their families left with big smiles and a real sense of pride.

As we near the end of a busy year, it is so important to stop and celebrate everything that our students have achieved. We did that yesterday evening, and we could not be prouder!

Thank you to everyone who attended and made the evening a success.







# NOTICES AND EVENTS



## KEY DATES

### Monday 8 July

Y7-9 STEM Day

Y10/12 Careers Day

Y12 Army WEX Residential (until 11 July)

### Tuesday 9 July

Sports Day

Y12 Trip to Rolls Royce

Y13 Gold DofE Qualifying Expedition (until 13 July)

### Wednesday 10 July

Y8 Camp

Y9 Battlefields Residential (until 13 July)

Y10 MFL/Art Trip to Barcelona (until 13 July)

Y10 Geography/Food Trip to Naples (until 13 July)

Y12 WEX/Re-teach Week (until 12 July)

### Thursday 11 July

As above

### Friday 12 July

As above

## INSTRUMENT LESSONS

Learn to play an instrument in school!

If you are interested in having instrumental lessons next year, sign up with Bristol Beacon to have lessons here in school.

[Learn to Play | Bristol Beacon](#)

## TELL SOMEONE

Please remember, any safeguarding and well-being concerns can be shared with us by emailing:

[tellsomeone@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:tellsomeone@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)



80% attendance

A, E, I, O, U

is like only being all wed  
t use four vowels

Studybugs

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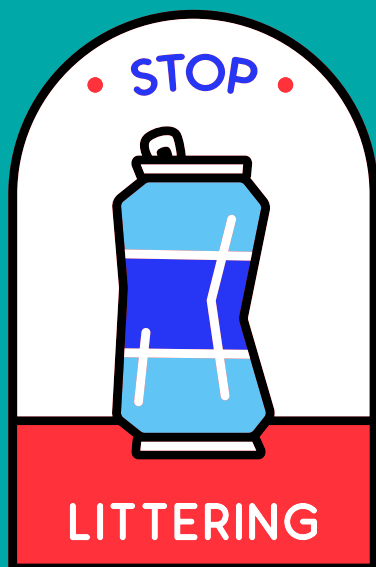
## NEW PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED LATES AND ABSENCES FROM SEPTEMBER 2024

From September 2024, penalty notices will be £80 per parent per child (if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days). A second penalty notice within a rolling three-year period will be £160 per parent per child. Unpaid penalty notices will be considered for prosecution. A third penalty notice within three years cannot be issued, so prosecution or parenting orders will be considered as alternatives. Prosecution can lead to fines of £2500 or 3-months imprisonment. 8 or more unauthorised marks within a ten-week period may result in a penalty notice being issued.

# LITTERING ON CONCORDE DRIVE

Please can we remind all student and parents/carers to be mindful of our local residents. There has been an increased amount of litter left behind on Concorde Drive after our students have left for the day.

Please take everything with you and dispose of it appropriately.  
Thank you.



# Second-Hand Uniform

Please consider donating outgrown uniform to the School. We are in need of good quality, clean second-hand uniform, especially in smaller sizes.

*Thank You*



ASHTON



BLAISE

# HOUSE NEWS



CANFORD



DURDHAM

## House Points



A close week with Durdham House taking the top spot!

There is all to play for next week at Sports Day.

**LET'S GO!**



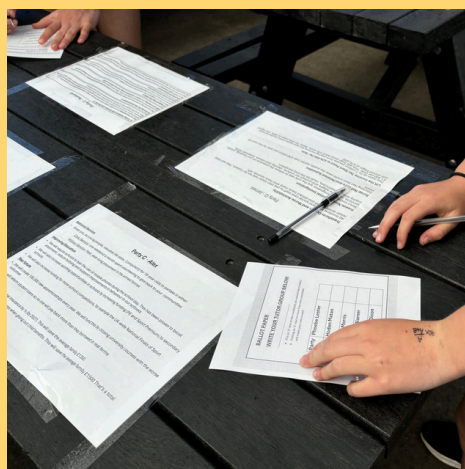
# Mock General Election

Yesterday saw BFS run its second ever Mock General Election. We decided to run candidates for the Labour, Conservative, Reform, Liberal Democrat and Green parties, however we anonymised the party policies as we wanted students to vote for the policy not the party.



Each tutor group represented a constituency, and we used the current voting system of 'First Past the Post' meaning we had a 'winner takes all' result for each tutor group. Our students will be discussing the pros and cons of this at a later date.

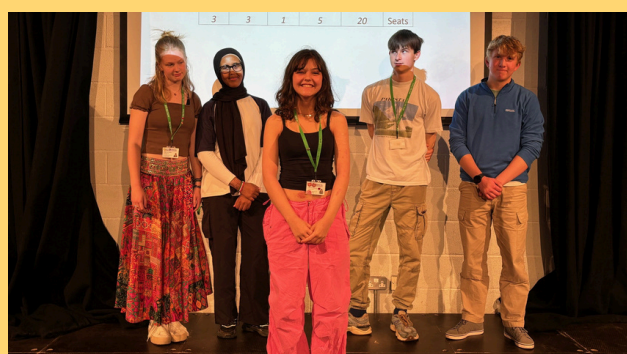
Our Head students, Phoebe, Hodan, Alex, James and Nushanti, did an incredible job of selecting which policies they wanted to campaign on and then creating a video whereby they canvassed the remaining BFS students for their votes.



The Year 12 politics class, Alp, Will, Lilly, Elshba, Jemie, Tommy and Isaac were superb at running the polling station and really grew into their roles as the day went on. Despite the windy conditions, an incredible 851 students voted today giving us a turnout of 88%. As with the real election, we did have some spoilt ballot papers.

This has been a fantastic opportunity for students to understand how democracy works and for them to actively participate in such an important process. Results are as follows (We were all really excited to see whether our election would mirror the results in Bristol North West).

Party	Party A	Party B	Party C	Party D	Party E	
	103	129	58	170	279	Votes
	3	3	1	5	20	Seats







It has been an honour to work with you all. You have faced immense challenges and have faced them with your shoulders back and head held high. Go forward, enjoy the next phase of your life, live it with purpose and be yourself!

Mr Smith

# Goodbye Year 13

This week, Year 13 students celebrated their seven-year journey with us at our Leaver's Assembly and Quiz, and then at their Summer Ball at Leigh Court. It was great to see the students again after their hard work throughout exam season.

In the morning, students joined us for our Leaver's Assembly and Quiz. We were able to reveal the student poll winners for categories as diverse as 'most likely to cure a disease', 'most likely to become prime minister' and 'best car'. We also displayed a reel of student photos and videos from across their time at BFS and as babies (thank you parents/carers for secretly sending them in!). Of course, no BFS Leaver's Assembly would be complete without the Year 13 premiere screening of our Leaver's Song! Then followed the quiz - at which the teacher's team placed outside the top three(!).

It was a real pleasure to celebrate with them in this way and to say our goodbyes. The DJ and the venue staff were very complimentary of the students' enthusiasm and attitude - well done all for representing our school so well.

Of course, it is really only 'goodbye for now' as we will see them on Thursday 15 August for Results Day and we will be sure to stay in touch with them as BFS alumni.







# Your true colours are beautiful....



## ***Mrs King's Top Tips!***

Be patient - things might not happen immediately. Take your time to figure it out.

Be true to who you are - you will be your happiest if you are being yourself!





# EXTRA CURRICULAR

## Engineering Club – eRacing Team

The Engineering Club is pleased to announce we will be racing an electric racing car next year. We are fortunate to have obtained the majority of a brand-new car from elsewhere and we hope to join the race calendar early in 2025.

***But we need your help!***

We need sponsors and supporters to help:

- Provide funding for the components to finish the car
- Provide funding for entry fees
- Provide race suits/helmets
- Provide funding/support with travel to circuits (likely Castle Coombe/Llandow/Guildford)

This is an amazing opportunity for our engineers/STEM, future Formula 1 engineers and drivers, but it does need resourcing from our friends and stakeholders. If you think you might like to partner with us or want to know more, please email Mr Laxon: [m.laxon@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:m.laxon@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)



**#BFSOpportunity**

## Basketball Club

We were very privileged to have Chris Bourne, Coach at Bristol Flyers, come to BFS and run a session for our students on Monday. Chris's session was really inspiring and it was lovely to see our students so engaged in the session he put on. The students worked really hard - we certainly have some very talented basketball players at BFS and I saw some cracking 3-pointers!

We really want to grow and develop basketball at BFS, both boys and girls. If you are interested in playing basketball either as a beginner or more experienced player, then do look out for the afterschool club that will be run by Mr Langeveldt starting in September.

**#BFSOpportunity**





# Young Green Briton Challenge National Final



The final stage of the year-long Young Green Briton Challenge arrived yesterday, with our winning team from 7TG3 representing BFS at the national final!

We arrived at City Hall in London (a fitting venue for Election Day!) to present our ideas and project to a host of VIPs and sustainable industry professionals. After setting up our booth and networking with business people, we enjoyed an excellent lunch and it was on to the presentations! We were addressed by Sadiq Khan, Chris Packham and even Kai Widdington from Strictly! After some inspirational talks about the importance of young people and their influence on the future of sustainability and environmentalism, we were on to the prizegiving.

## #BFSOpportunity

BFS were commended for their idea of changing the school PE kit to one made of recycled coffee grounds and sustainable bamboo, with Helen Taylor, CEO of Forest Green Rovers, praising them for using FGR as their inspiration. After trophies were handed out, we set off home feeling full of inspiration and proud of our achievements. We cannot wait to take part again next year!



well done ★



# BFS DT

## Wake the Tiger

I really enjoyed my experience at Wake the Tiger as it was a unique experience that felt out of this world. When we first arrived, I wasn't too sure what to expect and underestimated how beautiful it would be. The entire building, from the front entrance to the café to the individual rooms, was created with such attention to detail and was truly a work of art. As an art student, it really inspired me to go big when creating art pieces rather than sticking to basic drawings and paintings and to make my art more of an experience.



JJ - Y12



**Wow!**

## DT Lessons

In Product Design lessons, Year 9 have been making candlestick holders using metal forming and shaping techniques. It is testament to the many skills they gained across Key Stage 3 (not just in DT) that they have made innovative and high-quality products. Well done Year 9!



Across Year 8 and Year 9, CAD/CAM students have been trying out the new vinyl cutter CAM machine funded by Friends of Bristol Free School (thanks FoBFS!), with materials supplied by Avonmouth Signs - thanks to Dan Taylor.



# BFS SPORT



MS URCH

## Sports Leaders

Our Sports Leaders embarked on supporting Elmlea's sports days on the 1 and 2 July. Both mornings consisted of our leaders running a variety of different stations and track events. The atmosphere was electric with many parents and staff in attendance. As always, our leaders were an asset to BFS. A special shout out to our Year 10s who have been fundamental in supporting sports days and similar events over the last three years in our community. Bethan, Maddie, Laura, Charlotte, Eden, Isla, Josh, Archie and Hugo - you have been amazing!

September will see ten new positions open up to our new year 8 students. The application process will be posted in tutor slides at the end of September.



**#BFSCommunity**

## Year 9 Rounders

Our team played OSB in the quarter finals at Greenway on Thursday 27 June. They were slightly nervous with the anticipation of knowing what was to come next and the eagerness to get into the semifinals, however they performed exceptionally well!

They listened to Miss Slater's advice and guidance for tactics, demonstrating their fielding abilities superbly by backing up on 2nd and 4th to stop points and support one another, as well as Sophie attempting a spin bowl to add some flavour to the flight and movement of the ball, which enabled a few high balls to be caught by the team!

So much so, they took the win of 14.5 to 9.5 rounders, with OSB having all students out in both innings. The team are now through to the semi-finals and they wait in anticipation to find out who they play....

**You did it!**



# Y7 Rounders

Congratulations to the Year 7 rounders who won against Fairfield, 16.5-15.5, in a very close match. Player of the Match for batting = Esther, Player of the Match for fielding = Daisy. Well done all!



MRS WYNNE-JONES



#BFSAmbition



MISS MCMURDO

# BFS ENGLISH

## Review

10 House Points!

### How To Fail by Elizabeth Day Review by Anonymous

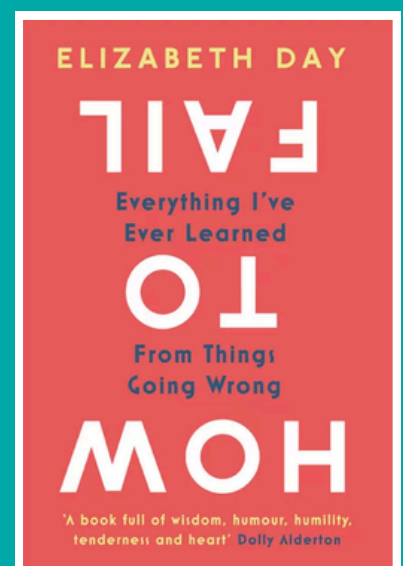
This is an inspiring and popular book that gives everyone an insight into failing and how to overcome it. It is a nonfiction, feminist biography which shows stories of Day's life and growing up. It is well-suited for teenagers and adults. She spreads personal stories for people to relate to. It is a funny and honest celebration of things going wrong and embraces that failure is a part of life.

The book is inspired by her popular podcast where she interviews famous people and discusses their failures. It is interesting to look at role models and people who have done brilliant things and to see how their failures helped to shape them. This book is funny and an honest celebration of things going wrong.

A quote which summarises the book is:

'If I have learned one thing from this shockingly beautiful venture called life, it is this: failure has taught me lessons I would never otherwise have understood. I have evolved more as a result of things going wrong than when everything seemed to be going right' (Elizabeth Day).

I would highly recommend this book especially for students who are feeling stressed or under pressure at school and want to see that failure is a part of eventual success.







# School Attendance: The law is changing

*From 19th August 2024*

## Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing

The government is introducing a new National Framework for Penalty Notices

### 5 days of unauthorised absence

Penalty Notice fines may be issued for any term-time absences that are unauthorised (for example, a 5-day term-time holiday) - whether these absences are taken consecutively or cumulatively over a rolling period of 10 school weeks

### 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any 10-week period

Penalty Notice fines will also be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any rolling period of 10 school weeks

**A school day has 2 sessions:  
1 morning and 1 afternoon session per day**

A **school week** means any week in which there is at least one school session. The threshold can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 6 sessions of holiday plus 4 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

### What is a Penalty Notice?

A Penalty Notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. If repeated penalty notices are being issued and they are not working to change behaviour they are unlikely to be most appropriate tool. Therefore, from August 2024, only 2 Penalty Notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second Penalty Notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. Any further offences may result in criminal prosecution.

The law will be clear that where a Penalty Notice threshold is met – in each individual case, the school **must** consider if a Penalty Notice is appropriate

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance, the amount will be:

**£160** per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

Reduced to: **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 days

### Second Offence (in a 3-year rolling period)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance to the **same parent** for the **same child** the amount will be:

**£160** per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

There is no reduction in the amount.

### Third Offence or Any Further Offences (in a 3-year rolling period)

The third time an offence is committed for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance by the **same parent** for the **same child** (including those by other Local Authorities) a Penalty Notice will NOT be issued but will be referred to Bristol City Council's Education Welfare service for **Prosecution** which may result in fines of upto **£2,500** per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in a Magistrate's Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate.

**Bristol City Council have the discretion to issue Penalty Notice fines before the above threshold is met in cases where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the threshold, or for repeated absences for birthdays or other family events.**

### Unchanged

Penalty Notice fines are issued **Per Parent, Per child**. This means that fines are issued to each parent, for each child who is absent. For example: If 2 siblings are absent for a term-time holiday this will result in each parent receiving 2 separate fines.





# BFS Fund



Staff and Governors at BFS are determined to ensure that every student at our school has access to an enriched education with inspiring curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Through our BFS Promise, we offer a huge range of additional opportunities for all our students as they progress through the school.

Funding in schools has been under increasing pressure for several years now and we work tirelessly, with less resources, to provide the best possible experiences for your children. It is increasingly challenging to continue to deliver and improve on the additional experiences and opportunities we offer.



With this in mind, we are re-launching the BFS Fund to help us provide some of those extras that make all the difference to school life, that we otherwise may not afford. BFS fund will go towards improving our school environment and sustaining our wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities.

Initiatives include:

- Improvement of social spaces e.g. landscaping and outdoor furniture and equipment for social times
- Grounds development projects such as sports spaces and outside environmental classroom/garden
- Collapsed curriculum days and visiting agencies
- Special visitors/speakers/authors
- Performing arts workshops and visiting theatre groups
- Additional/specialist arts, crafts & technology materials
- Resources for extra-curricular clubs and activities such as gardening club
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities



**DONATE**



## **What do we ask parents to contribute?**

We suggest £10 a month as a voluntary contribution but if you would like to pay more (or less), we are very happy to receive any amount that parents can afford, and think is appropriate. We are also very pleased to receive one-off donations. Any donation will be much appreciated and will make a difference.





# COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## U13'S YOUTH FOOTBALL TEAM

CHILDREN CURRENTLY IN YEAR 6 & 7

THURSDAY 6-7PM SESSIONS



**SOUTHMEAD ATHLETIC YOUTH**  
PENPARK SPORTS PAVILION, BS10 6WF.  
PLEASE DM US FOR MORE INFO OR EMAIL.  
YOUTHCHAIR@SOUTHMEADCS.CO.UK

**JOIN  
U13'S**

## U15'S YOUTH FOOTBALL TEAM

CHILDREN CURRENTLY IN YEAR 9

WEDNESDAYS 6-7PM SESSIONS



**SOUTHMEAD ATHLETIC YOUTH**  
PENPARK SPORTS PAVILION, BS10 6WF.  
PLEASE DM US FOR MORE INFO OR EMAIL.  
YOUTHCHAIR@SOUTHMEADCS.CO.UK

**JOIN  
U15'S**

## GIRLS FOOTBALL GOALKEEPER OPPORTUNITY

THE BRISTOL LADIES UNION UNDER 16 TEAM ARE RECRUITING A GOALKEEPER FOR NEXT SEASON. THIS IS AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR A GCSE STUDENT OR ANYONE KEEN TO PLAY REGULAR FOOTBALL.

WE TRAIN ON TUESDAY EVENINGS AND PLAY MATCHES ON SUNDAYS IN THE BRISTOL GIRLS LEAGUE.

WE ARE A FRIENDLY AND ENCOURAGING TEAM AND WANT TO ADD RESILIENCE TO OUR SQUAD.

IF YOU ARE YEAR 10 OR 11 IN 2024/25 AND WANT TO FIND OUT MORE, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.

Contact Simon (U16 coach):  
sbowker@hotmail.com  
Our website is blufc.com

## Awesome NEWS!



We still have tickets available for Transitioning to Secondary School!



We still have tickets available for our online session on Transitioning to Secondary School with Laura Douglass and Emily Marquez-Vega from Bristol City Council's Educational Psychology team, on Thursday 11 July, 2024 at 7:30PM. Book [here](#).

If you would like information and support to help your child transition to Secondary School then join Laura, Emily and Bristol Parent Carers for this informative event.



# COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



EVENT FOR  
FAMILIES TO  
FIND OUT  
MORE

## AUTISM & ADHD INFO SESSION

Come along to hear from Sirona Care and Health and the Integrated Care Board for an update on The Neurodiversity Transformation Project



JULY **9th**



AT **7-9** PM

Online, Zoom



JULY **11th**



AT **10-1** PM

BAWA Leisure,  
Southmead Rd