

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

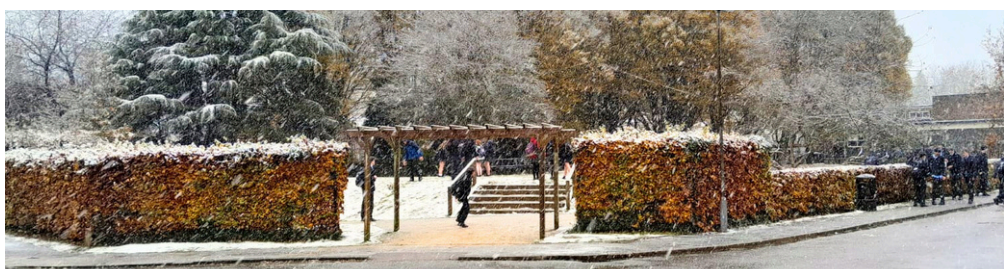
Head Teacher Message

We want to know what you think.

Over the next two weeks we will be asking both parents/carers and students for their feedback on BFS in the form of a survey.

There are several areas that we are very keen to know how we are doing, so the survey is slightly longer than in previous years. I would appreciate you spending 15 minutes or so on these surveys and please add any constructive feedback in the open text boxes – we do read it thoroughly.

The Student Parliament have invited me to face their questions next week and the agenda items that they have raised are focused on the school site. As the School has increased in size, we are facing challenges with the amount of dry space available at social times and the limited amount of useable outdoor sporting space. Sixth Form also needs more study and social space due to its rapid growth. This is something that I am very aware of, and we are working with the Trust and a terrific parent working party to plan how we address these challenges. We have included questions on the School's site in the parent and student surveys to support us in the development stage.



Well done to Year 11 and Year 13 for completing a very demanding and intense mock exam series.

They have been the best cohorts we have ever seen at this stage. All students approached these exams with focus and maturity. Results will be given to them in envelopes on Wednesday 18 December so they get the experience of what it will be like in the summer.



Once again BFS has progressed through to the next round of the English Speaking Union Competition with Emily, Mark and Ellie in Year 11. The competition was very fierce and hard fought, so beating some of the local independent schools was a real achievement. As a community we are so proud of them!



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Connected to this, Darren Jones MP visited BFS last Friday to promote the competition with Year 9. He gave them some helpful tips and explained how he speaks when in the House of Commons.

Year 9 asked him some great questions at the end of his presentation – one that made me smile was 'Is your job hard?!'



Thank you to Mr Harris for leading this and providing our students with such a great opportunity.

*Enjoy this week's
newsletter.*



MRS S KING



NOTICES AND EVENTS



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment

KEY DATES

Thursday 5 December

Y11 Sixth Former for a Day
Y12 & Y13 working remotely

Friday 6 December

INSET Day - School closed to students

Monday 9 December

Y9-11 Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday 10 December

Y7-8 Flu Vaccinations
Y7(TG4-7) English Workshop

Thursday 12 December

Y7(TG1-3) English Workshop

QUICK LINKS

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Student/Parent Handbook](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

PLANNED ABSENCES

For planned absences, such as funerals or participation in county or elite sport, please fill in an absence request form available from this [link](#).



This form should also be used for religious observances, but please note that we can only authorise one day of absence per religious observance. Please submit the form at least two weeks in advance of the planned absence. Thank you for your cooperation.

LUNCH MENU CHANGE



Due to the INSET day on Friday 6 December, we will be serving fish and chips as the main meal on Thursday 5 December.

FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS

Free Period Products are available to those who need them. Just look for the **Pink Boxes** in the following locations:

- Student Services
- Sixth Form Admin Office
- PE Changing Rooms
- Mrs Gardiner's Room in C Block
- Main Reception
- SEND Office
- Mental Health & Safeguarding Room
- Head of Year Offices



We are
HIRING

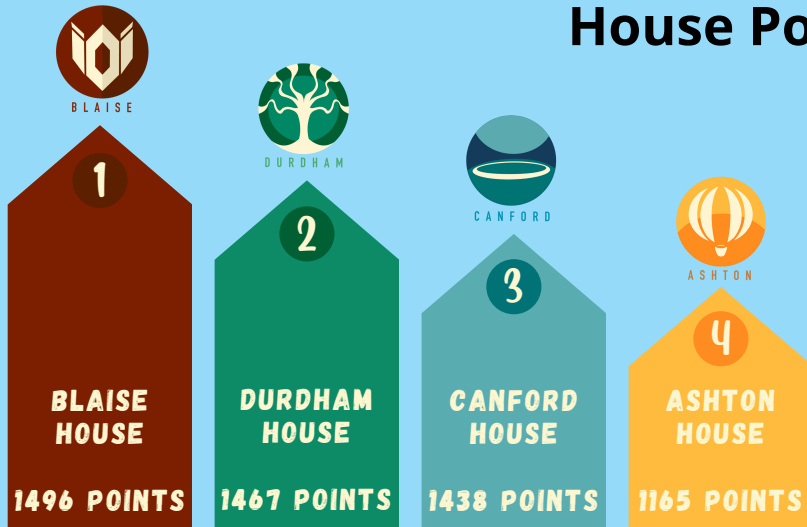
[Sixth Form Operations Coordinator](#)



HOUSE NEWS



House Points



Well done to Blaise House for earning the most House points! Another close week!

#BFSCommunity
#BFSOpportunity
#BFSAmbition

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Max, Willoughby	Sophie R	Sienna	Frederick, Jack W
Year 8	Tiana	Flynn	Matthew	Ella
Year 9	Sophie	Jasmine	Harry	Alfie
Year 10	Isabella	Austin T, William G	Evie, Imogen	Amelia R
Year 11	-	-	-	-
Year 12	Layla	Lorraine	Daniel	Keira
Year 13	-	-	-	-

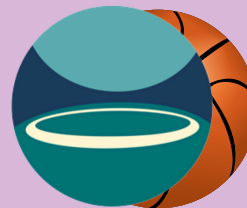
PE House Competition

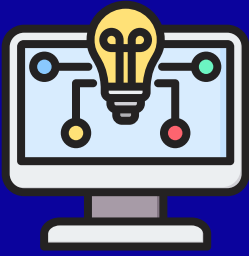
Team PE are hosting a series of House competitions this term. Come along and get involved! Everyone is welcome and you could earn points for your House!

When? Year 7, 8 and 9 - Tuesday 17 December, 2.45-4pm
Year 10 and 11 - Monday 16 December, 2.45-4pm

What? Netball
7-a-side Rugby

How? Tutors will sign you up in tutor.
On the day, get changed at lunchtime and leave lessons at 2.45pm.





What has been happening in... **computer science ?**



MRS RAMANANDI

Bebras Challenge Success!

Last week, our students joined over 460,000 participants from around the world in the Bebras Computing Challenge, and what an incredible experience it was! The challenge tested their problem-solving skills, logical thinking, and creativity through fun and tricky tasks designed to inspire a love for computational thinking. Everyone worked hard to tackle the puzzles and explore new ways of thinking, showing great determination and teamwork. We are so proud of their efforts and cannot wait to see their results! The Bebras Challenge is a great way to build confidence and skills in computing, and our students truly rose to the occasion. Well done everyone!



CyberFirst Girls Competition

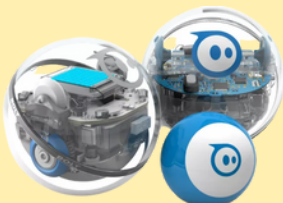


We are thrilled to share that our talented students recently participated in the CyberFirst Girls Competition, showcasing their incredible skills in cybersecurity and problem-solving! This exciting national competition, run by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), challenges students to work in teams to solve puzzles and tasks in areas like coding, cryptography, and network security.

A huge shoutout to our amazing participants - Rebecca, Cerys, Sophia, Leo, Alice, Emily, Imaan, Jemima, Lauren, Lilia, Kirstie and Jessica. These students demonstrated outstanding teamwork, determination, and creativity throughout the competition. Their enthusiasm and hard work highlight the importance of empowering young women in tech and cybersecurity. Well done, you have made us incredibly proud!

Coding Club

This term Coding Club is full of fun and exciting challenges using Sphero! Our members are learning to program their Sphero robots to navigate mazes, complete obstacle courses, and perform cool tricks. Using block coding and JavaScript, they are bringing their ideas to life while exploring how sensors like gyroscopes and accelerometers work. It is a great way to learn, be creative, and have fun with robotics all term long! Why not join us on Wednesdays, 3-4pm.



LIBRARY & READING



MS GRIFFITHS



Non-Fiction November



It is *Non-Fiction November* and the non-fiction section of our Library is undergoing a tidy-up. There are some great reads and resources available covering a huge range of topics from Science to Art, Music to Cooking as well as Travel, History and Geography. Ever wondered about wasps? We have got a book on it! Want to know about Norway? We have got a book on it! Visit the Library and find it all out.



House Competition

Blaise are in the number one top spot again this week with the most books checked out of the Library. Ashton have made a brilliant effort and are blooming in second place. Canford are not far behind, but those autumn leaves are falling for Durdham as they take fourth place again. What can be done about this? Come to the Library and take out your next great read to help win house points.



Accelerated Reader Balloon Race

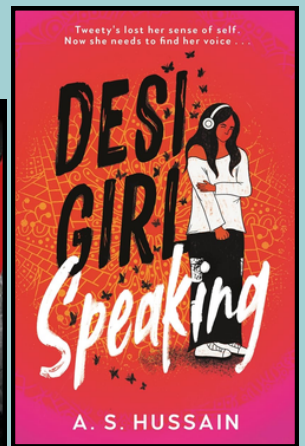
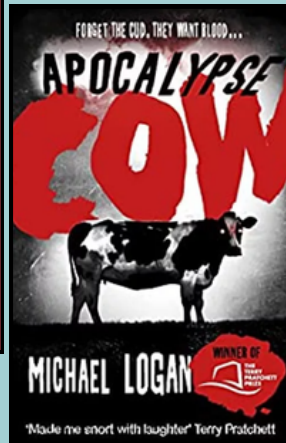
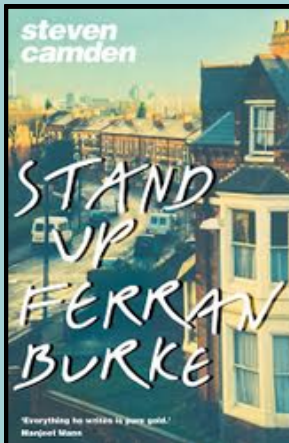
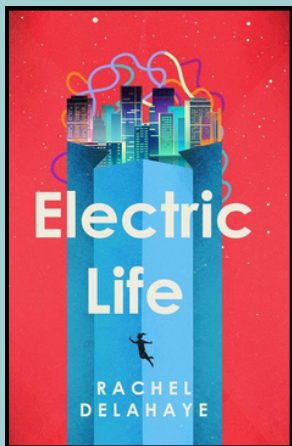
Still leading the balloon race this week is class Shakespeare (Ms McMurdo's Year 7 class) and for Year 8 the race leaders are class Ness (Mr Treen's class). Remember, more reading = more quizzes = success.



The Bristol Teen Book Awards

These amazing new books have been nominated by a team of Bristol school librarians for The Bristol Teen Book Award (BTBA) and you could be part of this too. The BTBA is an annual event which aims to celebrate and highlight excellent literature for teens with a clear focus on diversity.

This year's shortlist of amazing books are:



So, what happens next? These books are great for all year groups, Year 10 - 13 especially. If you would like to read one or more of these books and vote for your favourite, come to the Library and speak with Ms Griffiths to find out more. The award ceremony will be held at Clifton College in February and will include talks from several of the authors nominated. You could be there too!

ORACY

Speak Like You Own The Room

Last Friday we were delighted to welcome back our local MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Darren Jones, promoting the English Speaking Union competition. Mr Jones is a passionate advocate for public speaking skills and it was fascinating to hear how these skills changed his life.

Our Year 9 and 10s really enjoyed hearing his anecdotes and watching clips of him in action in Westminster and on the news. After providing his top tips for a range of speaking roles (questioner, speaker, chairperson) we had the opportunity to ask questions. I was hugely impressed with the insightful and thoughtful questions from our students, which produced even more great advice. We hope he will come back again next year too!



Darren Jones MP's post



Darren Jones MP

14h

It was great to head back to [Bristol Free School](#) last Friday to deliver another public speaking masterclass as part of my 'Speak like you own the room' campaign.

Last year, the school entered [The English-Speaking Union](#) Public Speaking Competition off the back of the campaign, making it all the way to the South West Regional Final. They've re-entered this year and are already off to a strong start, with a team progressing to the first in-person heat following success in the first round!

Find out more about my 'Speak like you own the room' campaign for schools: www.darren-jones.co.uk/own-the-room

If you're interested in this campaign and live in Bristol North West, please feel free to be in touch on email at darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk or call my office on 0117 959 6545.



ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Building on last year's successful campaign, we were very excited for the first round of this competition. Clearly Darren Jones has done a great job of raising awareness as there were even more teams of even higher quality than in previous years and only three teams of the seven competing could progress!

Mark and Ellie were paired with the speaker from St Bede's Catholic College,

with a speech on "perseverance", ranging from Sisyphus to Albert Camus. Meanwhile Sama and Awura were paired with Montpellier High School, who had prepared a speech on "economic disparities in modern society". Both our chairpersons and questioners did superbly, confidently running the debates and making probing enquiries to great effect. Emily delivered a dramatic endorsement of mental health awareness under the guise of "90 seconds to midnight: we are on the brink of a global catastrophe". Sadane expertly combined humour with a wider societal message, exploring "The real reason aliens haven't visited us? We're too weird!". Every single performer was a credit to our school, and the judges were hugely complimentary in their feedback. Alas, only one of our teams progressed to the next round; the other two teams to go through were both from Redmaids' High School. Thank you all for your tireless enthusiasm, hours of preparation and practice, and congratulations on your superb public speaking skills. Now we begin preparation for the next round!

Well done!

Rotary Youth Speaks Competition

On Tuesday 19 November, the English department were thrilled to take two fantastic teams to the annual Rotary Youth Speaks Competition, this year hosted by Queen Elizabeth's Hospital.



Our intermediate team, comprised of Sophia D, Imogen M and Muhammad FA, chose the motion 'Should we ban homework?', a topic we know is close to many students' hearts. Imogen proposed the motion, arguing that homework occupied time that would be better spent with friends and family or enjoying extra-curricular activities, as well as raising issues around cheating. Muhammad then opposed the motion, positing that homework was essential for academic success and that it taught students the importance of independence. The debate was masterfully overseen by our chairperson, Sophia.

Our senior team, Sadane A, Zero K and Jacob C, questioned whether the COVID-19 pandemic only had negative effects for young people. Jacob was an excellent chairperson, who skilfully introduced the topic and felt in control of the debate throughout. Sadane was in proposition and argued that COVID-19 had led to a decline in young people's ability to communicate, as well as having a significant impact on their mental health. This was then opposed by Zero, who suggested that the pandemic had resulted in young people being more comfortable talking about their mental health, using social media as a valuable tool to express themselves.

Although Redmaids' High School took the title in both categories, our students represented themselves and the School extremely well. Each of them put a lot of time and effort into preparing their speeches, rehearsing their presentations during lunchtimes and after school. We are incredibly proud of them.



MRS CORRIGAN



Year 10 Fishmonger Visit



“
In today's lesson, we learnt how to fillet a red mullet and it is a life skill. We will be happy to know this for the rest of our lives! We started off by chopping off gills, gutting the fish, filleting it and seasoning it. We then fried it and tasted it. It was crispy and soft at the same time and it was lush! Thank you Dan for visiting us.
”



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



MR LAM

Flying Start Challenge

Thirty Year 8 students participated in the annual Flying Start Challenge. This year it was delivered over the course of a day by graduates from the local aerospace industry. Students learnt the principle of flight, such as yawing, pitching and rolling, and worked collaboratively in groups with the aim of making a qualifying glider to compete with other local schools in the future.

Marks were awarded for sustainability and recycling, so the gliders were built using some recycled materials. At least one team has qualified for the local finals, this will be confirmed at a later date. It was a busy day, enjoyed by all. Well done to all the teams!



BUSINESS STUDIES



MRS MORGAN-JONES

Lancia Consult Future Consultants Challenge

A team of Year 10 and a team of Year 12 students took part in a one-day business competition for Bristol schools at Ashton Park Sixth Form Centre. The event was an excellent opportunity for students to learn about a diverse and versatile sector, whilst gaining hands on experience working with employers and developing key skills to solve real-life business problems.



Teams were given a brief with key challenges to solve and then time to collaborate and plan solutions to present to consultancy experts from Lancia Consult. Both teams emerged themselves into the challenge and prepared high-level presentations which impressed the judges. Our students demonstrated outstanding presentation skills, with the employers highlighting Max in Year 10 for a stand-out performance. Even though we did not clinch first place at the event, our students represented the School well and gained valuable experience as a business consultant. Well done to all students involved! Year 12: Yousef, Emily, DJ, Tawfiq, Toby and Dan. Year 10: Max, Will, Sidney, Andres, Peter and Freddie.





MS SLATER

Year 7 Girls 7-a-side Football Tournament



On Monday, Year 7 girls were invited to take part in the Bristol Schools Football Festival. Miss Slater took a team of 10 Year 7 students to Imperial Sports Ground and they were fantastic! Leila captained the team and was an incredible role model. The team worked together to organise themselves and how each game would look in terms of players and positions (fantastic leadership and teamwork!).

They took to the pitch and won the first game with a great goal from Lucy! Following on from the high, they then secured two draws and another win, taking them into the finals against Oasis Academy Brightstowe! Unfortunately, they could not quite keep the lead against a very well matched team, with Brightstowe scoring two goals to take the win.

The team was amazing and showed off their prowess, knowledge and clear passion for the sport! We are excited to see how their football journey progresses at BFS! Well done all!

Year 8 Boys Rugby Festival

The Year 8 Rugby Festival at Redland Green School was an exciting day filled with competitive spirit and remarkable performances. In the first match, the team faced off against RGS in a thrilling encounter that kept spectators on the edge of their seats. Despite a valiant effort, BFS narrowly lost the game by just one try, showcasing their resilience and determination.

In their second match against Ashton Park School, BFS bounced back impressively, delivering a convincing performance that resulted in a solid victory. The team demonstrated great teamwork and skill, which set the tone for their final game of the festival.

The last match saw the team take on St Bede's Catholic College, where they continued their winning momentum. With strong plays and effective strategies, BFS secured another win, leaving a positive mark on the festival. Overall, the day was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the players, making it a memorable event for everyone involved. Well done!



UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 2 December	U14 & U16 7-a-side Football Tournament	Imperial Sports Ground
Monday 2 December	Y10 Rugby vs QEH	Failand
Wednesday 4 December	U14 & U16 Basketball vs Bristol Brunel Academy	Bristol Brunel Academy
Wednesday 4 December	Y7/9/11 Netball vs Montpellier High School	BFS

Year 10 Boys Rugby



CHAMPION

What an incredible day for the Year 10 rugby team! In the semi-final, they faced The Castle School and delivered a stunning performance, winning 50-0. The teamwork and spirit displayed on the field were truly remarkable, showcasing the dedication and hard work the players have put in throughout the season. The quality of tries scored was nothing short of amazing, with each player contributing to the spectacle with skilful runs and precise passing.

In the final against St Bede's Catholic School, the team continued their impressive run, securing a 47-7 victory. This win not only highlights their skill but also the amazing camaraderie and togetherness that has defined their season. With so many star performers stepping up at crucial moments, it is clear that this group has formed an unbreakable bond, leading them to triumph and ultimately lifting the cup. What a fantastic achievement for the Year 10 rugby team!



MS JEROME

PERFORMING ARTS



MS KENNARD

BFS DRAMA & MUSIC

Winter Showcase



BFS are proud to present their annual
Winter Showcase

Oatley House Hall, St Monica's Trust, Cote Lane
Tuesday 17 December at 6.30pm

A BFS SCHOOL PRODUCTION BY ARRANGEMENT
WITH THE REALLY USEFUL GROUP LTD.

THE NEXT GENERATION

**SCHOOL
of
ROCK**
THE MUSICAL

WEDNESDAY 29, THURSDAY 30 & FRIDAY 31
JANUARY 2025

SAVE THE DATE

BASED ON THE PARAMOUNT MOVIE WRITTEN BY MIKE WHITE

MUSIC BY
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

BOOK BY
JULIAN FELLOWES

LYRICS BY
GLENN SLATER



MR BRUNKER

CAREERS



Connect With Us

Connect with us on LinkedIn! @Bristol Free School.
Join in the conversation and help us if you can.
Work Experience Employer Talks Careers Day



Employer Talk

This week, students heard about the varied career roles in the world of real estate. For many, their understanding of real estate is what they see on reality TV programmes. Our two speakers, Niamh O'Donnell and Katie Mahoney from real estate giant Savills, showed that there is much more to it than that. From valuing land and managing large estates, to buying and selling retail units and changing the use of cattle markets, there is something for everyone. "Some roles are client-facing, others aren't," Katie told students. "So there are jobs in real estate that would suit both introverts and extroverts."



Each of the speakers joined Savills through different routes: Niamh is doing a degree apprenticeship and Katie is on the Savills graduate programme. Niamh chose an apprenticeship because she did not enjoy school and wanted to get into the workplace as soon as possible. She said she did not feel she had missed out on University as there was a great social life at Savills and lots of young people to make friends with, as well as plenty of opportunity to travel round the UK meeting new people at the other Savills offices. Katie got a degree in Psychology and Masters under her belt before deciding she wanted to work in property.



Both Niamh and Katie explained how they are working towards their professional qualification through the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) which will qualify them as Chartered Surveyors, a vast career with many different roles and exciting opportunities. "Real estate is everywhere and affects all our lives," Katie said. "This qualification is global so there is the potential to work anywhere in the world."

Students who are considering real estate as a career were advised to seek out work experience with local property companies. The speakers explained that getting onto an apprenticeship or graduate scheme with Savills is competitive, and having work experience on your CV will give you a much better chance of succeeding in your application. With so many routes into the profession and competitive starting salaries, the world of real estate is definitely one worth exploring.

THANK YOU!

BBC Apprenticeship Schemes Now Open

For anyone considering a role on the highly sought-after apprenticeship schemes at the world's leading public service broadcaster, they are now open. As well as journalism, there is a huge variety of roles, from accountancy and legal, to cybersecurity and digital and technology. [Apply/Find out more.](#)

Coming up...

13 December:
Sport and fitness: Bristol City FC women's first team

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



AVAILABLE AT ALL ROGER GRACIE BRISTOL CLUBS.

55% discount on your first year when you sign up as a new member on Jiu Jitsu, MMA & Striking, and All-inclusive memberships. Available until 30th November.

55% off membership off first year (annual subscription) *

* To redeem, use voucher code *RGABLACKFRIDAY* on Jiu Jitsu, MMA and all-inclusive annual plans.

START TRIAL

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT BLACK FRIDAY OFFER



BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU FOR BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL

DISCOUNTED RATES WITH THIS FLYER

ROGER GRACIE NORTH BRISTOL ARE OFFERING MEMBERSHIPS TO BFS STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND STAFF!

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES IN

- ✓ BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU
- ✓ BOXING
- ✓ KICKBOXING



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📍 THE YOUTH CENTRE, SOUTHMEAD, BRISTOL, BS10 6AS

Residential Coaching Camps 2025

Marlborough College, Wiltshire

21 July - 25 July 2025: U14 Boys' Coaching Camp

28 July - 1 August 2025: U15 Girls' Coaching Camp



ESFA
ENTERPRISES
COACHING CAMPS

Join ESFA Enterprises for its two brand new residential coaching camps this summer and help young players to develop their skills with incredible coaching in a stunning location. These two courses will provide players with a one-of-a-kind coaching experience, using Marlborough College's world class facilities in a safe and nurturing environment, where empowered, young players will leave with a bespoke development plan to allow them to continue with confidence in their footballing journey.

£1,200 per player for 4 night's accommodation, coaching and extra-curricular activities across a 5-day period plus all food and drink, a welcome pack and branded attire.



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Register today at
esfaenterprises.com

Contact: esfaenterprises@gmail.com