

What has been happening in... *religion & philosophy?*



MRS STUTTARD

Holy Trinity Church

On Friday 29 November the Year 10 Full Course GCSE RP students, Year 12 A Level RPE students, Mr Smith and I enjoyed a warm welcome at Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym.



We were greeted by Dianne, a lay minister at Holy Trinity, who allowed us to quietly explore the church building and its many beautiful artefacts and features before leading a talk to help enrich our understanding of Christian beliefs, teachings and practices. Dianne helped the Year 10s to understand the role of the church in the community, explained about the sacraments of baptism and marriage as well as sharing thoughts about the challenge of secularisation for Christianity in contemporary society.

Students enjoyed the Q and A session too, appreciating the open and honest answers they were given. We all felt that it makes such a difference going to experience a place of worship and to be able to hear directly from believers about their faith. We are planning more trips to other local places of worship to support the other aspects of the exam courses.

Y10 RP Mock Exam

I have many reasons to be proud of my year group and I am not one to shy away from praising them. Last week Year 10 completed their first RP mock of the year and were phenomenal from the get go! Let me break it down for you:



MS LUDWELL

- Actively engaging in the tutor programme teaching them different revision methods and applying them to RP tasks
- Completing two weeks of revision in tutor: "a paper a day" and Mrs Stuttard's "walking talk mock"
- Attending period 7 with Mrs Stuttard
- Being told to meet in the canteen at 1.10pm for the exam prep and they are seated in the correct seat and are early!
- For exemplary behaviour in the canteen when I went through the RP and exam information
- Completing your exam to the best of your ability and incredible behaviour when in the exam



We are incredibly proud of how they have responded to their RP mock. I have never seen a group of students who are actively revising every morning and are asking their tutors to quiz them! Whilst I am giving a lot of credit to the students (and rightly so), I have to mention the Year 10 tutor team and Mrs Stuttard who did a stellar job in encouraging and being enthusiastic which kept the students' momentum up. It is a team effort and that we do not take for granted. Well done everyone!



NOTICES AND EVENTS



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment

KEY DATES

Monday 9 December

Y9-11 Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday 10 December

Y7-8 Flu Vaccinations

Y7(TG4-7) English Workshop

Wednesday 11 December

Y7 PSHE Drama Performance

Y13 Product Design Students visiting UWE

Thursday 12 December

Y7(TG1-3) English Workshop

Monday 16 December

Y10/11 House PE Competition

Tuesday 17 December

Y7-9 House PE Competition

Drama and Music Winter Showcase 6.30pm

QUICK LINKS

[* NEW Lunch Menu *](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Student/Parent Handbook](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

We Are Hiring!

[Sixth Form Operations Coordinator](#)

Christmas Lunch Day

On Wednesday 18 December we will be serving a two course Christmas lunch. If your child would like a Christmas lunch, please order in ParentPay. Students may also come to School in something festive (instead of School blazer/jumper).



HOLIDAYS

New government law means that we cannot authorise term time holidays. Please do not book holidays in term time - they are highly disruptive to your child's education. We work with Bristol City Council to issue penalty notice fines and prosecutions to families who take term-time holidays.

The penalty is £80 payable (per parent, per child - e.g. 3 siblings absent for leave during term time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines) within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid between 22 and 28 days. Failure to pay will result in prosecution.

If a second Penalty Notice is issued within a rolling 3-year period the penalty is £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. There will be no option to pay a lower amount. A third fine cannot be issued within a rolling 3-year period, so alternative measures such as prosecution will be taken. Prosecution can lead to fines of up to £2500 and imprisonment. Parents prosecuted also receive a criminal record.



Chocolate Boxes Needed



We would love to have as many empty (or full!!!!!!) chocolate tubs as possible. They are really useful in the Food Department for students to take their food home in after they have cooked in lessons.

Thank you



Parent Survey

A link to our annual Parent Survey was sent out via ParentPay last Friday. Please take the time to complete the survey with your thoughts and constructive feedback. We value your views.

Thank you

Safer Travel to School

Following our popular Dr Bike event in October, and then Paddy McGuinness's incredible charity bike ride earlier this month where he raised £8m for Children in Need, we are sharing [Top Tips for Safe Cycling](#) provided by The Bikeability Trust. Please look at these and share with your child.

We strongly encourage walking or cycling to school as it is good for health, environment and cuts down the number of cars on Concorde Drive, which is still at a dangerous level. Once again, we request that you do not drive to school or wait on Concorde Drive. If driving is necessary, please drop off/pick up away from Concorde Drive for everyone's safety.

Lost Property

A large quantity of unnamed and unclaimed lost property has been found around the School since September. We have compiled a list of all items (see ParentPay). If you recognise an item, please ask your child to go to Student Services as soon as possible. Alternatively, please email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk providing details of the item and your child's name and a member of the Student Services Team will reunite the item with your child.

Please claim items before Friday 20 December. Unclaimed items will be donated to a charity shop in January.



The Stoke Gifford Monkhouse store is closing. There will be a new store opening in **Kingswood** close to the Kings Chase Shopping Centre. Get ready for a fresh new space with all your favourite essentials.

In the meantime, we're here to make the move as smooth as possible:

Extended Returns: You now have 60 days to return any online purchases.

Free delivery: Enjoy shopping from home with **FREE** delivery using code **FREDELSTOKEG** at checkout.

For expert advice and personal fittings, please visit our **Bedminster** store.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

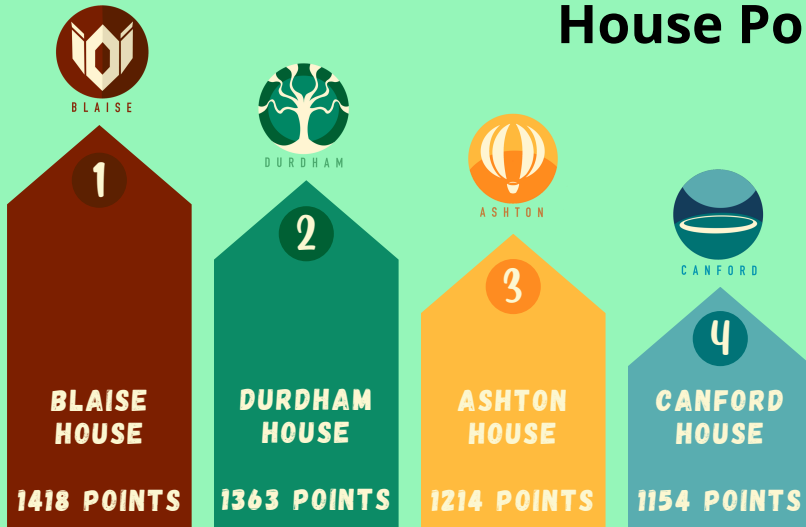
A festive poster for the BFS Drama & Music Winter Showcase. It features a central illustration of a nutcracker with a red and gold uniform, surrounded by white snowflakes and holly leaves. The text 'BFS DRAMA & MUSIC Winter Showcase' is written in a mix of fonts, with 'Winter Showcase' in a large, elegant script. At the bottom, the event details are provided: 'BFS are proud to present their annual Winter Showcase' followed by 'Oatley House Hall, St Monica's Trust, Cote Lane Tuesday 17 December at 6.30pm'.



HOUSE NEWS



House Points



A second week on top for Blaise! With only two weeks to go, who will be crowned Term 2 champions?

#BFSCommunity
#BFSOpportunity
#BFSAmbition

Cupcake Decorating Competition

On Monday we held the first House cupcake decorating competition! Mrs Day prepped a huge number of cupcakes and Ms Monelle ordered all the decorations ready for 18 cupcake decorators to showcase their creativity.

We witnessed melted marshmallow snowmen, pretzel reindeer antlers, scarves made from strawberry laces, piped Christmas trees and wreaths, buttercream Santa hats, crushed M&M toadstools, and even a 3D miniature gingerbread house – on a cupcake! Mrs King had a tough decision to choose between all the beautiful and very fun designs.

Congratulations to Durdham who won the overall gold medal and to Fiona, Halle and Shannon who were the best small group.

It was very special to see teamwork throughout the House groups and students from different years working together. Wonderful BFS community spirit! Staff members from across the Houses came to support too and Alba S in Year 9 was our photographer. Thanks to all who participated.



Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Max A, Dexter C, Chloe S	Maddie P	Ivy L	Charlie P
Year 8	Leo W	Naomi H	Noah S	Harrison H
Year 9	Miranda R	Alba S	Harry F	Sebastian W
Year 10	Isabelle W	Fiona H	Chloe D	Thomas B
Year 11	Isla W	Lily Barley	Mae W, Reuben L	Philippa G
Year 12	Layla	Amelie F, Caitlin O, Lola S	Izabella F	Hollie R
Year 13	Finley W	Olivia G	Jemie D	Emily B



MR MACBLAIN

House Parliament

In House Parliament this week, we were fortunate to be able to hear from Mrs King and the School Business Manager with a focus on how we can improve our school site.



MRS KING



Mrs King explained where school funding comes from and the hardships that all schools face nationally with funding. Additionally, we know our school is not purpose-built and the complexities that creates with site development. We also heard that all of these projects require significant investment, which the School are working tirelessly to source. Mrs King was able to tell us about her aims to improve the site which were:

- turning the top field into an astro-turf
- utilising space behind the bike sheds for a gym or an additional MUGA
- expanding the Sixth Form space and to find additional classrooms to support their lessons
- improving the main entrance to the School through exploring a potential change of location
- adding a stand-alone Sixth Form entrance to the School

Our Business Manager then spoke about the 'quick wins' we want to implement over a much shorter period of time. These included:

- re-branding/designing the courtyard spaces to re-purpose them as quiet spaces for social times
- buying additional table tennis tables and creating a 'zone' for table tennis
- getting additional outdoor basketball hoops and creating a 'zone' for basketball
- replacing the heating in the canteen so it is a much warmer space to use at social times
- improving our playground space with specific sports markings, to allow for games to be played more easily
- improving the queuing spaces for break/lunch and exploring using the indoor kiosk rather than the outdoor one
- improving the shelf space in the library to allow for more books to be displayed
- purchasing more (and better) recycling bins

And the last piece of exciting news we heard was that the School have bought a new minibus!





Year 10 Role Models

This week our assemblies focused on “what is a role model?” Usually deciding on what angle to approach the topic can take a little while but this time it was easy, focus on the role models in Year 10! As always, the tutor team were very helpful and shared their personal role models from Vanessa Kisuule, Mathieu Kassovitz, Roy Hackett and Zaha Hadid. Alongside this, each tutor nominated a student in their tutor group as a role model and wrote a detailed reason as to why.



MS LUDWELL

Well done to....



Lillyana, 10TG1

Lillyana always wants to do her best and is willing to give things a go. Polite, positive and a can-do attitude. You are an inspiration to us all!

Mr Ruston



Oscar P, 10TG2

A student who is hard working, kind and has a great attitude. Oscar is a standout student who actively engages and puts in 100% to every lesson. Oscar is part of the school rugby team and plays a huge role in their success – well done!

Mrs Edwards



Alejo, 10TG3

He is always doing the right thing, working exceptionally hard in all his lessons and supporting others – whether that is in class or through mentoring younger students. He has had a fantastic start to Year 10 and is polite and kind to those around him. Well done!

Ms Kennard



Chloe, 10TG4

She consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, positive attitude, and kindness toward others. As a House Parliament rep, she ensures she leads by example. Chloe embodies the qualities we value in our group!

Mr Soupionis



Emilia, 10TG5

Emilia has made an exceptional start to Year 10. She puts maximum effort into everything she does, including mentoring younger years and her dedication to revising for the RP mocks and supporting others.

Ms Marsh



Anastasia, 10TG6

A person who not only completes outstanding achievements outside school in swimming, but is also personable, does her best every day and helps others around her achieve!

Mr Nouas



Esme, 10TG7

She has an exceptional work ethic and determination. Always a positive attitude and kind to everyone.

Ms Hawes

Alongside this, we recognised and celebrated students who were a role model through sports and in a recent business trip.

Congratulations to...



Fiona, 10TG7

Encouragement in creating a girls' rugby team and being supportive to everyone who played.



Lexi, 10TG5

Enthusiasm for football and being a source of energy on the pitch.

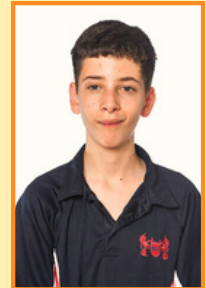
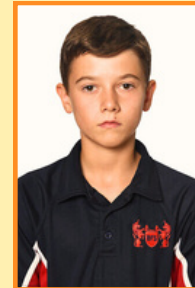
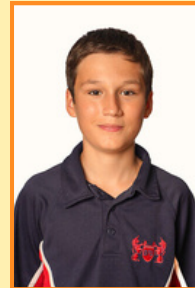
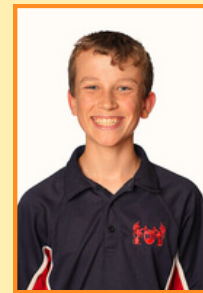
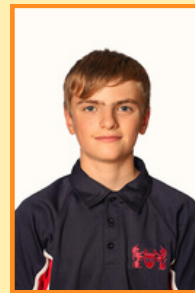
The Boys' Rugby Team

Incredible teamwork and drive to be successful.



Will G, Freddie H, Max F, Andres, Sidney and Peter

Phenomenal representation with your professionalism, presentation and leadership skills being recognised.



*Well done to everyone in Year 10
Just being you makes you a role model!*



You are role models by...

- Following the BFS expectations
- Following the uniform policy
- Taking your education seriously
- Taking part in extra-curricular activities
- Pastoral mentoring
- Being academic mentors
- Being reading mentors

It is easy to forget that being "you" makes you a role model too!

Well done!

LIBRARY & READING



MS GRIFFITHS



House Competition

Well done to Ashton House for being the current first place holders in the Library book borrowing competition. Watch out though, as Blaise are only two points behind you in second place.

To put yourself and your House in the running for House points, come to the Library to borrow a book.



Accelerated Reader Balloon Race

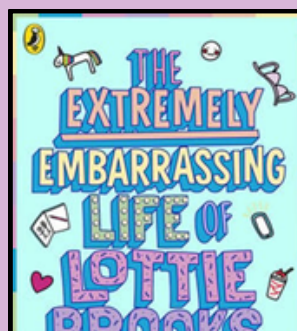
Class Shakespeare in Year 7 are still the clear winners of the AR Quiz balloon race and Ness are still leading the Year 8 balloons. Get reading and get quizzing Years 7 and 8!



Giving Books this Christmas

Research into book ownership amongst school age children shows that 1 in 11 do not own a book of their own! Let's get gifting books this Christmas, and for upcoming birthdays, and smash that stat.

What could you gift? Take a look at:



Library Books - New and Old

As well as copies of the Bristol Teen Book Award books, new books on the shelves include lots of books requested by students since September and books from the BFS Ladder. Come in and take a look.

Please return any and all overdue books to the Library as soon as possible. We are missing an enormous amount of books. Drop off in the returns box at the end of the Library desk.



EXTRA CURRICULAR



This week we have some reports from our avid club goers in Science and Art! If you would like to join a club, have a look at the [current clubs timetable](#) or ask Ms Board in CF15. We will be starting some new activities after Christmas so look out for some fun new additions!

Science Club

Do you love explosions? Would you like to don a hazmat suit to undertake a forensic investigation? Or maybe you like creating funky artwork with chemical reactions?

We do all of this and more at Science Club. Every blue week we spend an hour doing non-stop experiments with loads of different equipment and elements. Come along for the chance to create blasting bubbles, chemical concoctions and racing rockets - all the best parts of Science without writing a single PEEL paragraph!



Art Club

Art Club have been busy with their second week of clay practical and are getting into the Christmas spirit!



Why we LOVE Art Club!

It opened my mind to different creative media, such as clay, water colour, acrylic paint, oil pastels, collage etc. We get to try a lot of different techniques!

It allows you to expand your creativity and imagination and it cheers me up and is a lot of fun!

One of the good things about Art Club is we made new friends which is awesome!

We have really enjoyed our latest projects of making ceramic Christmas trees, creating art trading cards and comics. We have designed Christmas cards and made amazing Mexican flags for the canteen.





MS SLATER

U14 Boys Basketball



In the U14 match-up between BFS and Bristol Brunel Academy, we showcased a young team that put in a strong performance despite the loss. The players demonstrated impressive skills and teamwork, holding their own against a more experienced side. They executed some well-coordinated plays and showed great potential for future games. While the final score did not go in their favour, the effort and determination displayed by the team are encouraging signs for the rest of the season. With continued practice and development, this young squad has a bright future ahead.

U16 Boys Basketball

In the season opener, BFS U16 team faced off against Bristol Brunel Academy in a competitive basketball game. Although BFS lost, there were plenty of positives to take away from the match. The team showed great resilience and determination, demonstrating strong teamwork and individual skills throughout the game. Players were able to execute some impressive plays, and the coaching staff can build on this performance as the season progresses. With the foundation laid in this opener, there is a lot of potential for growth and improvement in the upcoming matches.



Keep it up!

U14 and U16 Girls Football

The U14 and U16 7-a-side girls football teams travelled to Imperial Park on Monday in what were very cold conditions. Nevertheless, the girls displayed some excellent football throughout their group games, scoring lots of goals and showing flair, trickery and excellent sportsmanship.



The U14 team lost one game, drew one game and beat Oasis Academy John Williams 2-0. Goal scorers included Evie and Elsa.

The U16 team went through to the final after some excellent play and determination. They met Bristol Metropolitan Academy in the final and equalised at the start of the second half to take the game into a penalty shoot-out. Unfortunately, the girls just lost out on the win.

Well done to both teams. Player of the Match goes to Evie for the U14s and Lexi for the U16s.

Sports Leader Interviews

On Monday 9 December, PE will be interviewing for the next round of Sports Leaders. Thank you for the applications and your patience! We have had around 70 students apply and, because of this, we will be opening up the roles to 30 students, instead of 20.

Please attend your interview at your time slot allocated below in either CG08 or CG09:

Time	CG08	CG08	CG09	CG09
8.30am	Samuel W	Emily W	Fakryia A	Esther J
8.40am	Jasmine K	Daisy P	Iris B	James C
8.50am	Harley G	Jack R	Edward R	Ruby D
9.00am	James T	Lucas B	Ryan H	Vincent L
9.10am	Miranda R	Jasper R	Evie M	Daisy C
9.20am	Angelina V	Daniel W	Gabe P	Max G
9.30am	Aidan T	Elsa J	Emily S	Rosie B
9.40am	Lewis A	King A	Max C	James M
10.10am	Isla G	Zach B	Maisy B	Seb M
10.20am	Eleanor C	Finlay O	Holly J	Anaya K
10.30am	Katy T	Aurelia H	Isaac L	Alba J
10.40am	William R	Tom F	Daisy P	Lauren R
10.50am	Noah H	Harry S	Abi B	Alice T
11.00am	Ellie C	Rory S	Joshua W	Lucy C
11.10am	Charlotte N	Harrison H	Valeria	Billy J

Good Luck!

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 9 December	Post 16 Basketball vs Cotham School	BFS
Monday 9 December	Y7 Rugby vs Clifton College	Clifton College
Tuesday 10 December	U14 Rugby Cup Final	North Bristol Rugby Club
Thursday 12 December	Y7-9 Netball vs Redland Green School	BFS
Thursday 12 December	Y10-11 Netball vs Redland Green School	Redland Green School
Monday 16 December	Y10-11 House PE Competition	BFS
Tuesday 17 December	Y7-9 House PE Competition	BFS

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



EAT. SLEEP. BREATHE.
PERFORMANCE
CRICKET CAMP
2025

 26 - 28 AUG, WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
wcenterprises.co.uk/performance-cricket-camp/



EAT. SLEEP. BREATHE.
PERFORMANCE
NETBALL CAMP
2025

26 - 29 AUG, WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
wcenterprises.co.uk/netballcamp2025



EAT. SLEEP. BREATHE.
PERFORMANCE
HOCKEY CAMP
2025

 26 - 28 AUG, WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
wcenterprises.co.uk/performance-cricket-camp/

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The Bikeability Trust

If you're taking part in the How Will You Roll challenge on your cycle, take a look at these top cycling tips from The Bikeability Trust. They include the Four Key Skills and the ABCD check.



PADDY'S
ULTRA
ENDURANCE
CYCLE
CHALLENGE

HOW WILL YOU ROLL?

BBB
CHILDREN
IN NEED

BBB
RADIO 2



Four Key Skills

Use these Four Key Skills to help you to feel confident and prepared when cycling on roads.

Observation

Observation is about being aware of your surroundings and the actions of others when you're on your cycle. To use this skill, do a shoulder check behind you to watch out for people walking, cycling, or driving and so you know it is safe when you need to do things like turn.

Position

Position is about cycling in the right place. To use this skill, make sure you cycle in a safe place to be seen by other road users. Use our 'pass me' position, around 60 cm from the pavement, away from the grass and grit when it is safe to let traffic pass you. Use our 'follow me' position, in the middle of the lane in traffic, at junctions so you can be seen and safely passed.



Communication

Communication is about letting other people know what you're going to do on your cycle clearly. To use this skill, make signals to tell other drivers and cyclists what you plan to do.



Priorities

Priorities is about following the priority rules in the Highway Code and taking your turn safely. To use this skill, you need to understand the rules about who should go first on the road at things like junctions and roundabouts and turning.



The Bikeability Trust



PADDY'S
**ULTRA
ENDURANCE
CYCLE
CHALLENGE**

**HOW WILL
YOU ROLL?**

CHILDREN
IN NEED

RADIO 2

If you're taking part in the How Will You Roll challenge on your cycle, take a look at these top cycling tips from The Bikeability Trust. They include the Four Key Skills and the ABCD check.

The ABCD Check

Do this basic ABCD check to make sure your cycle is safe and ready to ride before you head out.

Air

A is for air.

Do your tyres have enough air? They should be as hard as an apple.

Brakes

B is for brakes.

Do the front and back brakes work properly? Squeeze them when you are standing to the side of your cycle to check

Chain

C is for chain.

Have you oiled your chain recently? Check the chain is free of dirt, grit and rust

Direction

D is for direction.

Are your handlebars fixed on tight? Is your seat on tight and pointing forward?



If you don't know how to cycle, or don't feel confident cycling on the roads, take part in [Bikeability training](#). You'll learn everything you need to take on a cycling challenge in confidence.