

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared throughout 2024. This year has been filled with achievements, growth, and a vibrant school spirit, all of which have been possible thanks to the unwavering support and dedication of our entire school community.

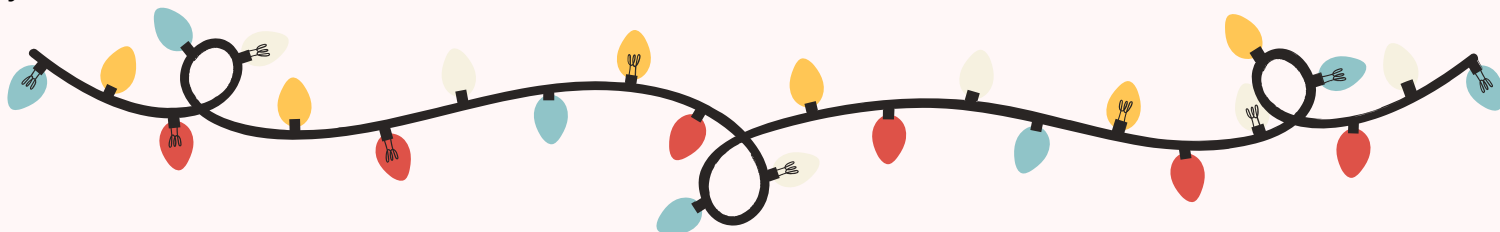


## To Our Students

I am immensely proud of each and every one of you. Your hard work, creativity, and kindness have illuminated our school and set a remarkable example for your peers. Whether you excelled in academics, shone on the sports field, or explored your passions in the arts, your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Remember that the holidays are a time to relax and recharge, so take the opportunity to enjoy the festivities and make wonderful memories with your loved ones.

## To Our Parents and Carers

Your partnership and engagement have been invaluable in fostering a nurturing environment for our students. Your encouragement and involvement have greatly contributed to their success, and for that, I am deeply grateful. Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education and for supporting our endeavours throughout the year.



As we celebrate this Christmas season, let us take a moment to appreciate the kindness and generosity that define our community. Whether through acts of charity, thoughtful gestures, or simply spreading joy, let us embrace the spirit of giving that this festive season inspires.

Please note that the school will be closed from Friday 20 December to Monday 6 January for the Christmas holidays. We will reopen our doors to students with enthusiasm and anticipation for another wonderful year on Tuesday 7 January.

On behalf of all the staff at BFS, I wish you a peaceful and happy holiday season. May it be filled with love, laughter, and the warmth of family and friends.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

Warm regards,

Mrs S King



**MRS S KING**



# NOTICES AND EVENTS



[BFS Bristol](#)



[BFS Enrichment](#)

## KEY DATES

**Monday 6 January**

INSET Day - School closed to all students

**Tuesday 7 January**

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**Wednesday 8 January**

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**Thursday 9 January**

Year 11 Subject Evening

Y12/13 English Workshop

**Friday 10 January**

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## QUICK LINKS

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Student/Parent Handbook](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

## We Are Hiring!

[Teacher of Maths](#)

## Extra-Curricular Clubs in Terms 3 & 4

We have lots of exciting clubs on offer for 2025, including some new additions!

There will be new sports as well as Year 8 Robotics Club, French Cinema Club, D&D, British Sign Language and Advanced Crochet! Come along and try these clubs out - we are so excited to see you there!

The new extracurricular timetable is available on the website now or via the link above in **Quick Links**.

## Thank You



We have been blown away by the kindness and generosity shown by BFS families in wishing all staff at BFS a Merry Christmas. Thank you for the gifts (plants, vouchers and biscuits) and kind words.



Thank you for all of the donations received on our Christmas Lunch Day. We enjoyed seeing everyone looking so festive and raised £1200 for our four House charities!

## 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.

## Christmas Dubs


We were delighted to be visited by Christmas Dubs this week! This group of decorated VWs spread festive cheer and raise money for the Wallace and Gromit Grand Appeal.



# ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGES

As we reach the end of term, now is a great time to check your child's attendance percentage on MCAS. Remember, attendance percentages are not like exam scores: "good" attendance is 96% or above. An attendance record of 90% means that your child has missed the equivalent of one day a fortnight. 90% attendance for a whole year would mean a child missing 18 days, or 108 lessons, severely impacting their education! Attendance records of below 90% are classified as persistent absence and will be discussed with Bristol City Council. If you would like to discuss any barriers to attendance that your child is facing, please call the attendance office on 0117 959 7200. Alternatively, you can email us on [admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk).

**75% attendance**



is like ordering a pizza that's missing two slices

Studybugs

**90% attendance**



is like leaving a football match in the 81st minute (and missing all the injury time goals)

Studybugs

## TREE OF PROMISES

Students working with the Behaviour Team have been reflecting on their year and have created this beautiful Christmas tree. The tree is decorated with baubles containing their promises for the year ahead. Well done to them all for reflecting on their behaviour and committing to making positive changes for the new year!



## SOCIAL MEDIA

We are aware that there are number of fake BFS accounts circulating on social media platforms, particularly TikTok, Instagram and SnapChat. These groups are typically used to share photos of our students without their consent and often are used to belittle or make fun of those students. When we are made aware of these accounts, we do contact the social media providers to try and get these taken down, however they often spring back up again fairly easily. We would be very grateful if you could review your child's social media platforms and if there are any fake BFS accounts on any of these, that you ask your child to report them and also to unfollow them.

Please see an example:

**bfsships.01**

Just a reminder that TikTok, Instagram and SnapChat all have 13+ as a minimum age requirement.

BFS runs four official Instagram accounts and no other social media:

@BFS\_Bristol  
@BFS\_Enrichment  
@BFS\_TeamPE  
@BFS\_Art\_Depart

Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Girls in STEM

To celebrate Women and Girls in STEM day, the School of Mathematics at Bristol University is showcasing some of its leading and emerging talent to inspire women, girls, and underrepresented genders to study these exciting STEM subjects. The celebration on 12 February

will start with a talk by Professor Nina Snaith (Stories about Hollywood's Hippest Mathematics), followed by a panel discussion by female academics, who will share some of the interesting work that they have done and how this has made a difference.

Book here: [Ticket Tailor](#)

# TERM 3 KEY DATES

Monday 6 January	INSET Day - School closed to students
Tuesday 7 January	First day of Term 3
Thursday 9 January	Year 11 - Subject evening (3.30-7pm)
Thursday 16 January	Year 12/13 - Theatre trip to Bristol Old Vic
Friday 17 January	Year 7 - Young Green Briton Design Workshop Year 12 - Unlock Cyber event at UWE
Monday 20 January	Year 9 - GCSE options launch (online event)
Thursday 23 January	Year 9 - GCSE options fayre (5-6.30pm at BFS)
Wednesday 29 January	School musical: <i>School of Rock</i> (6.30pm at BFS)
Thursday 30 January	School musical: <i>School of Rock</i> (6.30pm at BFS)
Friday 31 January	School musical: <i>School of Rock</i> (6.30pm at BFS)
Thursday 6 February	Year 9 - Subject evening (3.15-7pm)
Wednesday 12 February	Year 10/11 - Theatre trip: <i>Dear Evan Hansen</i> Ski trip parent information evening (5-6pm at BFS)
Friday 14 February	Last day of Term 3



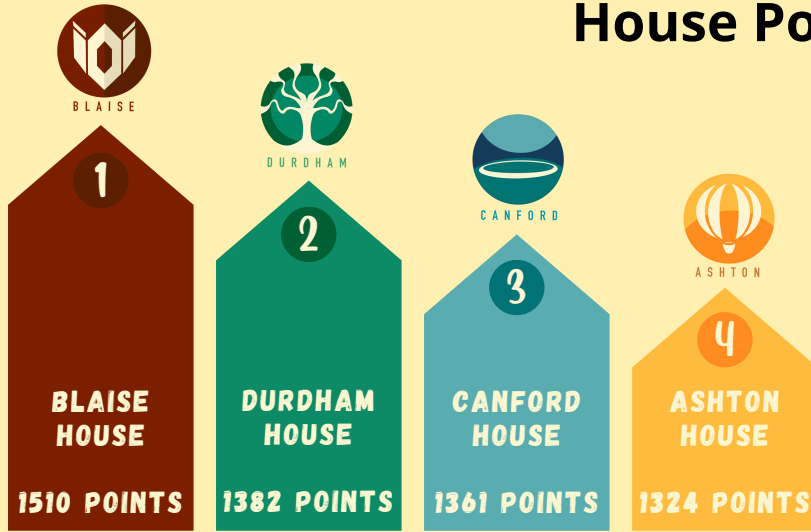
# HOUSE NEWS



## House Points

In the final week of Term 2, Blaise earned the most House points. Well done!

#BFSCommunity



## Top House Point Earners

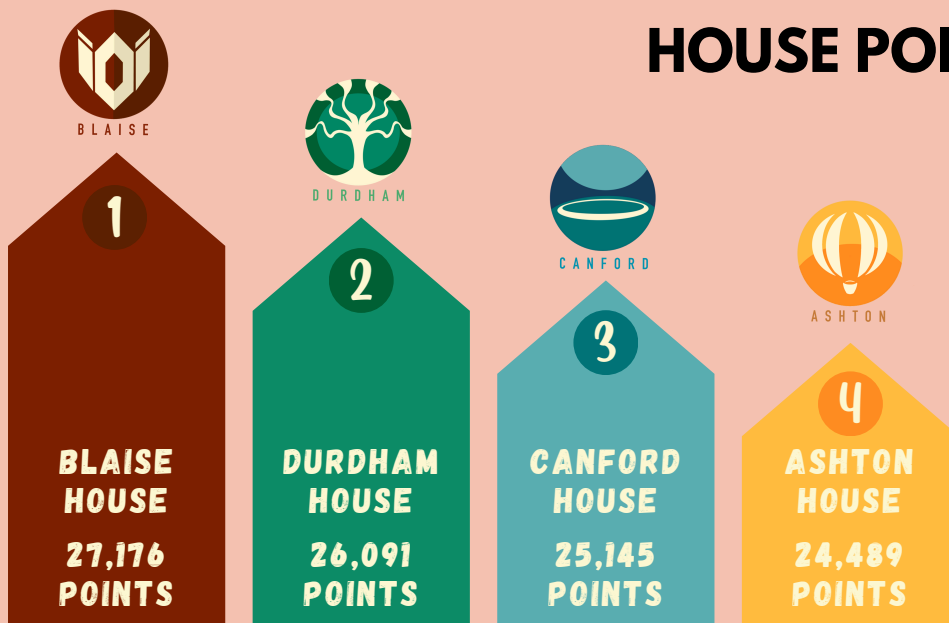
Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Esme P	Amy O	Ella M	Charlie P
Year 8	Molly M	Maya WL	Alex M, Joshua W	Emily S
Year 9	Sophie L	Thomas O, Sasha B	Amelia B	Melissa R, Mabel W, Chloe B
Year 10	Amelie G	Fiona H	Rosie D	Chloe G
Year 11	Mia T	Hannah O	Esme S	Abigail R
Year 12	Daisy R	Alyssa C	Dylan M	Hollie
Year 13	Olivia D	Phoebe L	Nushanti D, Alex M	Elen R

## HOUSE POINT LEADERBOARD

END OF TERM 2

Congratulations to our Term 2 Champions, Blaise, who earned an impressive 27,176 House points over the course of Term 2!



# End of Term House Assemblies



*Be present this Christmas so you create lifelong memories.*



# ACHIEVEMENTS



## ADCC UK British Open

Congratulations to Sam in Year 10 who won gold in his category at the ADCC British Open 2024!



## Sports Leaders 2024-25

Congratulations to the students who have been successfully selected to be this year's Sports Leaders.

- |            |           |            |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Fakryia A  | Isla G    | Daisy C    |
| Samuel W   | Eleanor C | James M    |
| Jack R     | Holly J   | Seb M      |
| Jasper R   | Isaac L   | Alba JG    |
| Angelina V | Abi B     | Lauren R   |
| Aidan T    | Joshua W  | Alice T    |
| King A     | Edward R  | Lucy C     |
| Aurelia H  | Billy J   | Joe T      |
| Evie M     | Bethan B  | Amy B      |
| Lola F     | Jemima H  | Ruby D     |
| Lauren B   | Stanley H | Vincent LK |

## Congratulations

Sports Leader sessions are held every Monday (3.15-4.15pm) in the Sports Hall from Monday 13 January.

# YEAR 7



MRS MACBLAIN



Year 7 have excelled themselves again in completing a second successful term at BFS. They have continued to settle into BFS life and it is a pleasure for staff to watch each student grow and develop into secondary school students. I am incredibly proud of so many students who continue to meet all expectations, arrive at school each day, work hard in lessons and bring such positive contributions to the school community.

Tutors have been really impressed with the fantastic, mature discussions around Votes for Schools topics and contributions to the Young Green Briton Competition.

Year 7 have finished Term 2 with a whopping 25226 positive House points collectively, with the majority of students receiving their postcard home. Year 7 also have the highest attendance (96.1%) in the school to date, which is another great accomplishment for the cohort demonstrating their enthusiasm and resilience.

House leaders have officially been appointed and huge congratulations to the chosen students this year. Well done to all those who applied and, if you were not successful this year, continue to strive and apply again in future years.



There have been some real highlights of the term including extra-curricular clubs fully up and running, where students have come together after school for a variety of activities including PE, music, and drama. There has been such a positive atmosphere, sense of community and development of physical and social well-being which is being reflected in the students' commitment to completing their BFS Promise Passport.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and I am already excited to see how Year 7 continue to impress us in term 3.

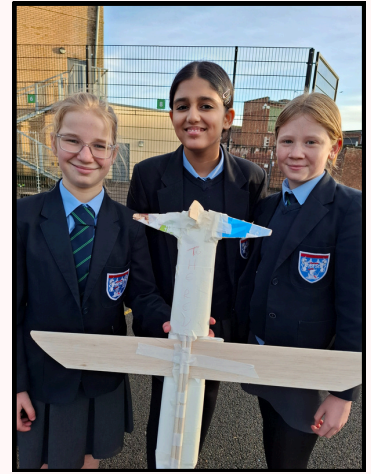


# YEAR 8



It has been a wonderful start to Year 8, with students working exceptionally hard. The year group have been steadily working through their Promise Passports, making sure they stay on track with their goals.

Year 8 have thrown themselves into opportunities around school this term, with the STEM visit to Bristol University, model car making, the Flying Start challenge, bake-offs and getting involved in the festive fun of inter-tutor Christmas lip sync battles!



In addition, the boys' rugby team have been exceptional this year, as have our wonderful Year 8 students participating in the Winter Showcase and the upcoming performance of School of Rock!

As we approach the holiday season, I hope the students take the chance to relax and recharge – they certainly deserve it after all their hard work.

We look forward to welcoming Year 8 back in the new year!





# YEAR 9



MR LANGEVELDT

What a fantastic start to Year 9! This term has been packed with exciting extra-curricular activities, with students actively participating in the debate club, rugby and netball. These activities have provided our Year 9 students with the perfect opportunity to showcase their talents and teamwork.

A special highlight this term was Remembrance Day, where we extend a big thank you to Thomas in TG5 who delivered a great musical performance during the ceremony, captivating the audience with his musical talent and honouring the occasion.

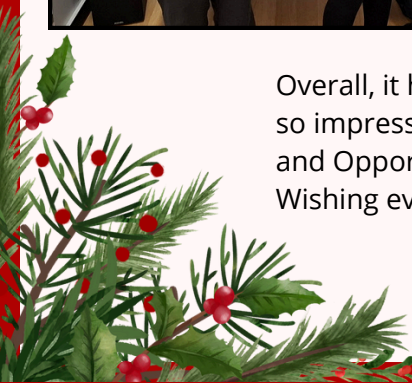


We are also thrilled to report that over 150 students have signed up for The Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award, demonstrating their enthusiasm for personal development and adventure.

Additionally, our Year 9 reading mentors have done an outstanding job reading with Year 7 students, serving as excellent role models. Their dedication and support have made a significant impact on the younger students.



Overall, it has been an incredible term and I am so impressed with the Community, Ambition and Opportunities that Year 9s have created! Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas!



# YEAR 10

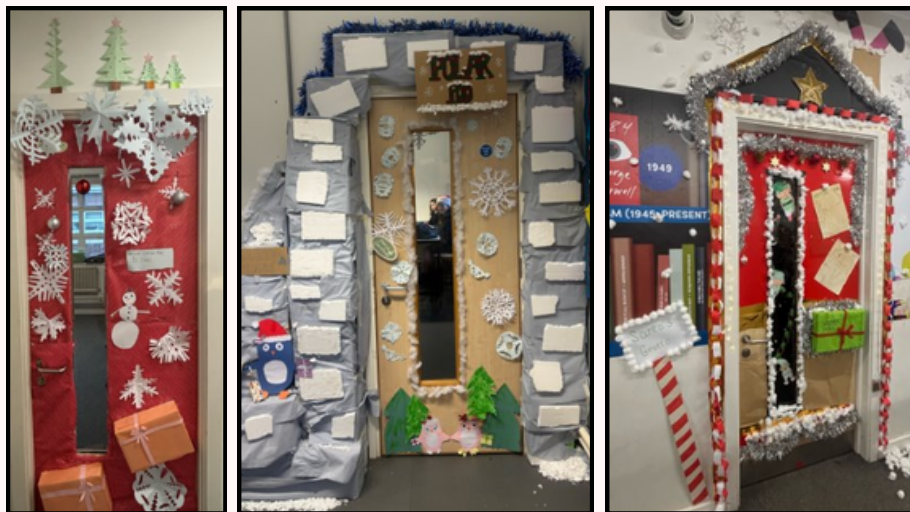


MS LUDWELL



Year 10 have been fantastic this year and we have ended 2024 with our traditional decorating competition - this year we went for the door. As you can see, all of the tutor groups got involved and were enthusiastic particularly when the prize was linked to me visiting Costco!

I am pleased to say that 10TG3 and 10TG7 both won this year's competition, and I cannot wait to see what the year group produce next year for our last Christmas together.



I hope you all (students and families) have a safe and comfortable Christmas.  
Merry Christmas, Ms Ludwell.



# YEAR 11



MS URCH

It has been a super busy Term 1 and 2 for our Year 11 students. They have and continue to work diligently towards their GCSE exams which will be taking place in the summer of 2025. The year group sat their mock 1 exams in November and the way in which they conducted themselves throughout was amazing. The sheer number of students that have accessed, and continue to access, the Study Hub, period 7 and interventions is a testament to their hard-working nature and ambition to do well.



Away from the classroom, students have been part of the House Parliament team, Winter Showcase, drama productions, sports teams and many more. Year 11 continue to embrace wider school life, taking up as many opportunities as they can to widen their experiences and CVs!



It was great to see the whole year group experience what it would be like to be a 'Sixth Former for a Day'. Thank you to the Sixth Form team for putting on an array of lessons for students to 'taste' and for students to experience talks from colleges such as SGS and The Robins, to name a few.



Our year group motto since Year 8 has been You are here, You are seen, You matter and so to finish the term, we celebrated many students' success with House points (Terrific Ten) and Tutor awarded nominations (The Sensation Seven), Community, Ambition and Opportunity points and attendance (both improved and those achieving 100% to date).

We continue to be proud of Year 11 every day and, on behalf of all the staff at BFS, we wish students and their families a restful break. Look after one another and see you all on the Tuesday 7 January 2025.



MR SMITH

# SIXTH FORM



MS NORTON

It has been a busy term of activity in the Sixth Form. A new cohort of Year 12 students has joined us and quickly adapted to the unique demands of A Level and BTEC study - particularly the challenges of managing free periods and embracing the increasing focus on independent learning. Alongside many of our Year 13 students, Year 12 have also begun participating in over 40 different volunteering activities. These range from reading with students in the main school, to coaching extra-curricular sports, to mentoring Year 11 students in need of revision support. It is always inspiring to witness students contribute to the wider school community, benefiting both themselves and those they help. Year 12 students are now preparing for their January Assessments, which will provide their first experience of extended papers and detailed feedback. Good luck to all students with their revision!



Year 13 students have similarly impressed us with their dedication and resilience at the start of this pivotal year. They have been focusing on mock exams and preparing applications for university and apprenticeships. Students have applied to a diverse array of courses, ranging from Mathematics to Film Production, at destinations across the country, including Bournemouth, Warwick and Sheffield. A number of students have also secured interviews for highly competitive courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry and Oxbridge.



The Sixth Form has also been buzzing with enriching trips. Year 13 Geography students have completed a five-day field trip to Pembrokeshire, while Sociology and History students visited the Old Bailey and the Houses of Parliament in Central London. Product Design students have visited UWE School of Engineering, Religion and Philosophy students attended a tour of Holy Trinity Church in Westbury-on-Trym, and a group of Sixth Form Science students embarked on a residential trip to CERN. We look forward to the exciting trips planned for later in the academic year.

A huge well done to all Sixth Formers for an excellent start to the year. Wishing you a restful Christmas break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.



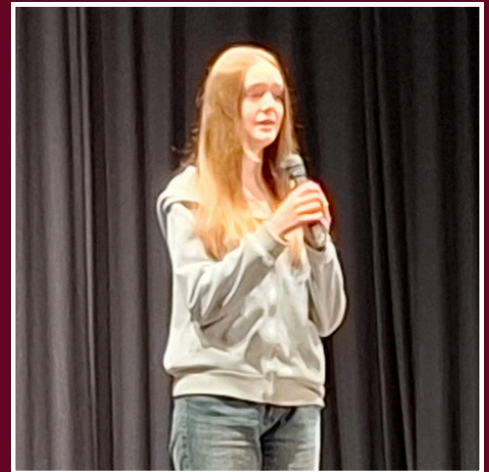


# BFS DRAMA & MUSIC

## Winter Showcase



Over 100 students took part in our fabulously festive Winter Showcase which was held for the first time at St Monica's Trust in their beautiful venue, Oatley House Hall. We are so proud of all the performers, crew and Sixth Form helpers, and feel so lucky to work with such talented students. Audience members, and St Monica's residents alike, were equally glowing in their praise of the students. Ticket sales raised close to £400 which will be split between the four House charities: The Grand Appeal (Bristol Children's Hospital), Bristol North West Foodbank, The Ranch and St Peter's Hospice. Well done!







MRS HARVEY



MR LAXON

# DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

## Year 13 Product Design Trip

Last week, our Year 13 Product Design students visited the University of the West of England (UWE) to meet with industrial design lecturers. The lecturers provided valuable stakeholder feedback on designs the students are developing for their NEAs (Non-examined Assessments).



Students spent time in the Engineering and Design Faculties and were able to see and experience undergraduate learning. Many thanks to Jenny Street and UWE for facilitating this excellent visit.



MISS MCMURDO

# ENGLISH



## Book Review

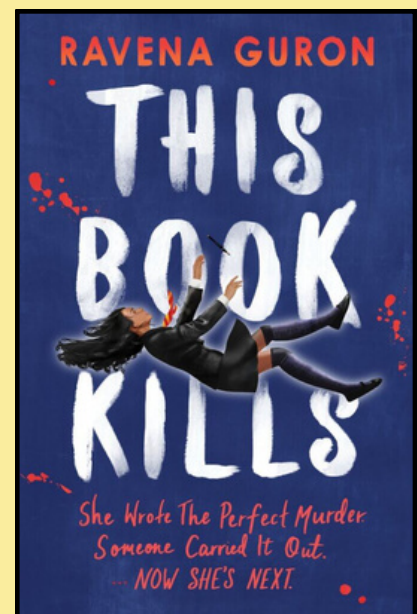
**This Book Kills** by Ravena Guron  
Review by Amelia in Year 7

*This Book Kills* is a stunning murder mystery book written in the perspective of Jess Choudlary. She retells her experience of the past few weeks in a way that has you on the edge of your seat the entire time! Ask any of my friends - I was physically unable to put the book down. At one point, I was trying to read it whilst walking to lessons!

Like any good murder mystery, it has you convinced that the murderer is someone but then it isn't. However, this book has an extra layer that isn't normally there: lots of gossip at Heybuckle School and, of course, gossip on who is or isn't dating, as well as the weird goings on of the Regio Club. Heybuckle School is the richest (and supposedly best) school in the country and Jess is a scholarship student and known as 'the poor kid' or 'the Indian kid'. When the murder happens, suspicion flies towards Jess. She must find out who the murderer is before it's too late...

However, the moral of this story is a nice one (unlike the murders): don't judge a book by its cover and don't make assumptions about people. A small act of kindness can make a big difference.

One last thing, I don't want to spoil the book for you, but I will give you this: Expect the unexpected.





MS URCH



MR LANGEVELDT

## Year 7-11 Girls Netball



MRS BALLARD

All five year groups were in action playing netball this week against Redland Green School. Results as follows:

<b>Year 7</b> Lost 23 - 5 POM Lottie	<b>Year 8</b> Lost 17 - 6 POM Iris B-L	<b>Year 9</b> Won 17 - 4 POM Miranda R
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<b>Year 10</b> Won 20-11 POM Rosie & Martha	<b>Year 11</b> Lost 23-8 POM Beth L
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This finishes off another successful Netball season for all our year groups. Netball will be back in September. Well done to all of the girls who have represented the School at fixtures and regularly attended training sessions.



### UPCOMING FIXTURES

Wednesday 8 January	GCSE Y10 and Y11 PE Moderation Athletics	Whitehall
Thursday 9 January	Y9 Boys & Y10 Girls Sports Hall Athletics Final	Redland Green School
Monday 13 January	Y10 Woodcock Shield Football vs Bradley Stoke Community School	Bradley Stoke Community School
Monday 20 January	Post 16 Netball v Cotham School	BFS
Monday 20 January	U14 & U16 Boys Basketball vs Fairfield High School	BFS
Monday 27 January	U14 & U16 Boys Basketball Vs Bristol Met	BFS
Monday 27 January	Y7/8 & 10 Rugby vs Bristol Grammar School	Failand