

Newsletter



The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy

*"I haven't really achieved anything,"
said the boy. "you are kind," said the mole,
"which is everything."*

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A NOTE FROM MR EAST

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As Appreciation Week comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible gratitude and kindness we have shared over the past few days. It has been truly heartwarming to see students and staff come together to celebrate and recognise the hard work and dedication that make our school such a special place. From thoughtful Thank You cards and kind words to acts of generosity and appreciation, this week has been a wonderful reminder of the strength of our community. I want to personally thank our students for taking the time to show your gratitude - whether to a teacher, a classmate, or a member of our support staff. Your efforts made a difference and brought smiles to so many faces.



MR EAST

Let's carry this spirit of appreciation forward beyond this week, continuing to support and uplift one another every day. Below are a few of the messages shared this week (continued on page 6).

With gratitude, Mr East



MS BOARD

I want to shout out the amazing women of our very own Science department, Miss Kelly, Miss Freeman, Dr Gregson and Miss Hawes. They are a fab group of STEMInists who I love working with!

Truly Grateful for you.



To Ms Hudson (the lovely kiosk lady), Thank you for always putting a smile on my face and brightening up our day! All the best, Year 11 (Archie, Ewan, Ben, James, Joe, Mark, Daniel, Mia, Josh, Rhys, Anaya, Leo, Shaun, Louisa, Imogen, Stan, Rina, River, Pani, Sama, Bilal, Merle, Pipa, Nic, Jessica, Ella and Emlyn)



MISS COLEMAN

Dear Miss Coleman, First of all I would like to thank you for being an amazing teacher. Every lesson you have infection energy no matter how you're feeling. I look forward to Spanish lessons every week. Thank you for making me love Spanish again.



Continued on Page 6



NOTICE BOARD



[BFS Bristol](#)



[BFS Enrichment](#)

NEXT TERM AT BFS

Monday 24 - Friday 7 March

Y11 & Y13 Mock 2 Exams

Tuesday 25 February

Y7 Young Green Briton Dragons' Den (3pm)

Thursday 27 February

Y7 Subject Evening

Monday 3 March

Y8 HPV Vaccinations

Tuesday 4 March

Y10 Maths Competition at John Cabot Academy (1pm)

Y10 BEP Student Leadership Training

Wednesday 5 March

Y8 Babcock Festival of Engineering

Y8 Science Explorers Day Trip

Y9/10 UWE Girls in Tech Trip

Thursday 6 March

Y13 Pastoral Day - Life After School

Friday 7 MArch

Y12 Women in STEM Trip

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 elite sport, please fill in an [Absence Request Form](#). With Eid approaching in March, 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.

Reminder

When collecting students during the school day

Note that the Main Student Gate is closed throughout the school day for the safety of all students. It only opens at the start and end of the school day. Therefore, if you need to collect or drop off your child during the school day, they must use the Pedestrian Entrance of the Car Park.

Please book appointments out of school hours whenever possible. If this is not possible, please follow these steps.

Email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk with the following information (giving 48 hours' notice):

- Your child's name and the date and time of the appointment
- The type of appointment and evidence of the appointment
- What time you want to collect your child

On the day of the appointment:

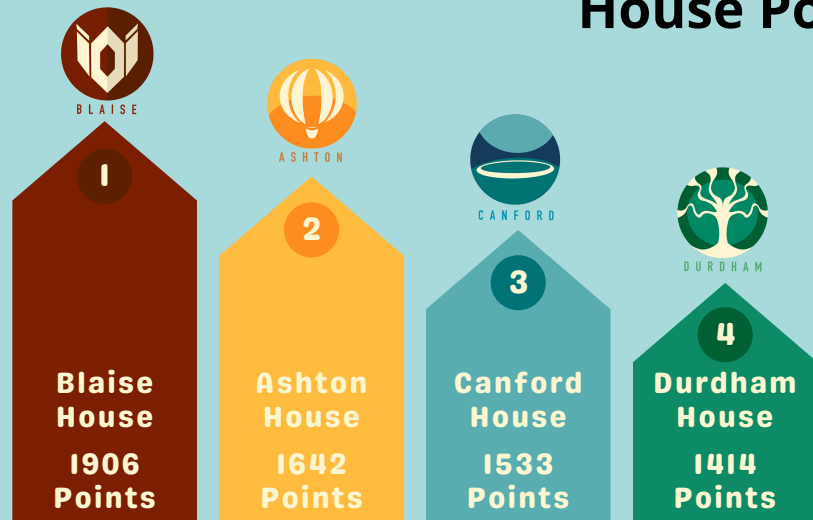
- Your child must go to D Block Main Reception at their collection time and advise the staff there that they have an appointment. We will ask them to wait in Reception until you arrive.
- To collect your child, please come to the Pedestrian Gate of the Car Park and press the buzzer. Once we have confirmed you are there, we will send your child out to meet you.
- When returning your child to school, please send your child back to the same Pedestrian Gate of the Car Park. They need to press the buzzer to gain admittance to the school.
- If driving, please do not drive your car into the car park. Please park safely outside of school.



HOUSE NEWS



House Points



Another convincing win for **Blaise House** at the end of Term 3.

Well done Blaise!

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Hannah T	Amelia F	Isabel C	Phoebe P
Year 8	Tiana M	Kyrstal D	Aurelia H, Violet P, Sophie L	Emily S
Year 9	Paige N	Jasmine K	Noal L K	Dexter P, Lukian S, Elizabeth C
Year 10	Ben K, Chloe-Scarlett S	Amelia L, Esma R	Thomas N	Harry J
Year 11	Hugo H	Mohammed E, Stanley H	Awura A	Alex B, Edward C, Olivia H
Year 12	Theodor A	James H	Ranithu G, Alan R	Isla B, George F, Matthew F, Isaac S, Joseph W
Year 13	Megan T	Owen M	William W	Abdirahman D, Cameron M

HOUSE CHARITIES

Last year BFS raised £2,400 for its House charities and this year I set the Head Students a challenge of raising over £3,000.

As we reached the half-way point in the school year, we have raised £2,000 for our four charities with further fundraising opportunities such as Move-A-Mile and cake sales still to come.



MR MACBLAIN



It is so lovely to be able to support our local charities and we are all very proud of the fundraising efforts to date.

BAKE SALE

Thank you to everyone who supported our House charity bake sale today. From baking and buying cakes to be sold, to those who came along and undertook the arduous task of choosing and eating their delicious treat! Over £220 was raised! Well done to our star bakers, Olivia H and Fiona H.



MRS GARDINER



HOUSE PARLIAMENT

On Monday, House Parliament interviewed Miss Slater (Head of PE) with the focus being on PE kit, site improvements and extra-curricular options.



MR MACBLAIN

Here is a brief summary of some of the responses:

- PE kit:
 - Socks for gymnastics – these cannot be worn due to national guidelines and health and safety implications
 - Coats – National Governing Body guidance says coats cannot be worn for sport. There are health and safety implications around zips/buckles. Greenway Centre does not have a secure space for coats to be left, so they could be at risk of theft from the public.
- Site improvements:
 - We are exploring whether we can build a new gymnasium to allow for more indoor sports/PE to take place.
 - We want to re-surface the MUGA with a sand-based astro.
 - We want to build a 4G astroturf on the top field. This would allow for more hosting of fixtures as well.
- Extra-curricular clubs:
 - If there is a club that is not running, then ask Miss Slater and we will explore whether it can run.
 - We run lots of girls-only clubs and most clubs have a male and female member of staff on them so we can divide by gender. However, uptake from girls has been low.
 - We offered a girls-only club at lunchtime, but only four girls turned up. It is not practical to use a facility for such low numbers. If girls want more clubs at lunchtime, ask Miss Slater / Mr East and we will see if we can explore putting some on a rotation basis.
 - Space is tight for running more Sixth Form sport. We are exploring whether we could include Tuesdays, but at present, Friday is the only option.
 - We cannot run a cheerleading club due to lack of qualified staff but if anyone knows a coach who might be interested, let us know and we will contact them



What has been happening in...

PE?



PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

What a year so far for PE!

We have welcomed Mr Howard to the team and said hello to returning staff: Mrs Ballard (part time PE teacher, also in charge of clubs and fixtures), Ms Urch (Head of Year 11), Mrs Wynne-Jones (part time PE teacher), Mr Langeveldt (Head of Year 9), Mrs MacBlain (Head of Year 7) and Miss Slater (Head of PE).

Meet the PE Team!



MR HOWARD



MRS BALLARD



MS URCH



MRS WYNNE-JONES



MR LANGEVELDT



MRS MACBLAIN



MS SLATER

As a team this year, the focus for PE has been very clear:

1. Implement a curriculum in Core PE that focuses on developing the whole student, through a holistic approach that allows for inclusivity yet ambition
2. Implement a #nocancelculture for PE clubs and raise the profile of #opportunity
3. Give our exam PE students the best classroom experience

So how have we, and the students, been doing?

Core PE Curriculum

In Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9), all students have been following our PE curriculum 'ME in PE', with a new structure embedded where all students have the following:

- 2 lessons: Physical ME - learning fundamental skills in the sport/activity they are learning
- 2 lessons: Creative ME - learning the tactics and strategies required in the sport/activity
- 1 lesson: Social ME - learning the rules and umpiring/refereeing sports and implementing core skills in teamwork
- 1 lesson: Thinking ME - analysing their knowledge and understanding of skills as well as analysing their own performance. This is also an assessment lesson.

CORE PE



Across Key Stage 3, students have the opportunity to learn the following sports/activities year:

- Invasion 1: Netball and basketball
- Invasion 2: Hockey and tag rugby
- Aesthetics: Year 7 - Lion King, Year 8 - cops and robbers, Year 9 - the Olympics
- Striking and fielding: Cricket and rounders
- Net and wall: Badminton and volleyball (autumn/winter), tennis (summer)
- Individual sport: athletics

By having two sports per unit of work, students are able to have variety in their learning but still be able to develop their knowledge and understanding by transferring skills such as passing and receiving, footwork, dribbling etc. giving depth and breadth to the curriculum. We have also reconfigured our timetable for Key Stage 3 students, meaning that they have access to more on-site learning, extending the available learning time in each lesson.



This year, Year 9 and 10 students are split into either a competitive PE group or recreational PE group, based up their stages of learning from Year 8. This provides students with the opportunity to continue to follow our holistic curriculum but allows for more challenge to be provided to students who are in the competitive group, extending their learning, knowledge and understanding of rules and tactics and strategies.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11), students are developing independence in their learning, with Year 10 focussing on securing knowledge, and Year 11 focussing on promoting independence. From Term 6 in Year 10 and throughout Year 11, students are provided with option blocks for learning. They have the chance to participate in a variety of sports, which they set up, lead and play themselves.

In Year 10, students participate in the following sports/activities from Term 1 to 5:

- Invasion: Netball, basketball, tag rugby, NFL, football, capture the flag and many more
- Net and wall: Table tennis, badminton, volleyball and tennis (summer)
- Striking and fielding: Danish long ball, battle ball, rounders, cricket and other variations of striking and fielding games
- Health and wellbeing: functional fitness (recreational group), or strength and conditioning (competitive group)

We have been impressed with our students' attitude to learning and attainment across all key stages this year and it is really raising the profile of PE and sport at BFS! Students are increasingly engaged in their learning, are asking questions to develop their knowledge, and are becoming reflective learners with wonderful oracy skills to communicate how they feel their own and others performance has been.

Implementing a #nocancelculture for PE clubs and raising the profile of #opportunity

We are super proud to have implemented a no cancel culture for PE clubs this year. This means that no matter the weather, or if there is a fixture, we will make sure that sports clubs take place, even if in a classroom completing analysis to embed into the next training session or game.

As a team, we have really taken pride in implementing this strategy as it has provided consistency in learning for students and also kept numbers of students in attendance nice and high. We appreciate that this does mean that at times students will have a PE teacher out of 'specialism' leading the club, but we always make sure that we are able to support the club appropriately.



We have also had other members of BFS staff join clubs to keep this culture alive. Thank you to Mr Dignan, Mr East, Mr Cooper and Ms Jetullaji who have all volunteered their time to support football clubs this season and to Ms Rostill who leads the Year 9 dance club. A special thanks go to Mr Dignan and Ms Ashton who regularly give up their spare time to cover clubs. As we continue to grow and thrive as a school, the sense of community in PE and sports at BFS is immense. Alongside teachers, we have had a group of parents who have supported and helped with Year 7 rugby last season, and Year 8 football this season. If you are interested in helping us, please email Mrs Ballard as we would love to have you on board for the summer season! Cricket, athletics, rounders and tennis are all on their way...and alongside our parent helpers, we have had a few Sixth Formers support Year 7-9 sports clubs, including umpiring, refereeing and coaching. We really appreciate you and everything you do for us. Thank you so much.

Alongside our normal timetable of clubs (netball and rugby in Term 1, football in Term 2 and rounders, athletics and cricket in Term 3), we have incorporated volleyball and dance into our extra-curricular provision this year. After the demand last year was so high, we have continued basketball and trampolining as well. Once again, a huge well done to all students who have been in attendance, you are super stars and we absolutely love seeing your enthusiasm and determination week in, week out to improve yourself and your game play/performance.

Running alongside all of our extra-curricular clubs, which run on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, we have attended 67 fixtures since September, with over 200 students participating.

Fixtures have included:

- Rounders
- Basketball
- Netball
- Rugby
- Swimming
- Football
- Cross-country
- Sports Hall Athletics



We have entered into local and regional leagues, as well as playing friendly matches against some very competitive independent schools. This March, we are entering our first dance competition (Stages) and hopefully some badminton and trampolining competitions in the future. We also hosted House Netball and Rugby competitions at the end of Term 2 and will be hosting a House Football competition at the end of Term 4. It's been go, go, GO and the students who have attended and participated have really brought their all to every competition, no matter how big or small!

Classroom Experience

Our Year 10 GCSE students have been learning about the anatomy and physiology of the body using raps and songs to enhance their learning of bone and muscle movement. They are now moving into learning about planes, axis and levers of movement using Jelly Babies as their main tool. Mrs Ballard and Mr Howard have thoroughly enjoyed how engaged students have been in the course so far. Students have already completed their first practical unit of badminton and are now developing their netball game play which is absolutely fantastic.

Our Year 10 Cambridge National students have been working hard with Mrs Wynne-Jones, as they have completed 3 out of 5 tasks of their first unit of work. As part of this, they have planned, lead and reflected on their first unit of 'leadership' to small groups of very excitable Year 7 students. The Year 10 students chose the sport that they wanted to coach, demonstrating their knowledge and leadership abilities across rugby and football. The two groups of Year 7 students really enjoyed being coached by older students who were fantastic role models. The Year 10s rose to the challenge, and they have now moved onto their first practical sport unit of football.

Our Year 11 GCSE PE students have now finished all of their content learning and have submitted all of their NEA components, meaning that the rest of this year, before their summer exams, is dedicated to revision. Miss Slater and Mr Langeveldt are looking forward to providing their Year 11 groups with tailored and personalised learning. The purpose of lessons moving forward will be to make sure all students secure their content knowledge whilst challenging and stretching them to really apply their knowledge to exam questions. Throughout the GCSE course, students have learnt about BUGS for exam questions, which they have been applying across a range of exam questions and contexts. Applying this in the summer exams will certainly support them in achieving the grades we know every student can attain.



Year 11 Cambridge National students are coming to the end of their NEA unit of Sport and the Media. Ms Urch has been teaching students about the use of media in sport. This has included students developing knowledge about the different types of media outlets and how they can have both a positive and negative impact on different types of sport. Once this unit is completed, students will have submitted 60% of their grade for the course.

At A Level, Ms Urch and Mrs Ballard have been teaching our Year 12 cohort this year. They have brought competition to the classroom with lots of retrieval quizzes, challenging students to recall knowledge from previous lessons. *Articulate* has become a firm favourite within the group and it has really helped them remember key definitions and AO1 knowledge.

Mrs Wynne-Jones and Miss Slater have had the pleasure of seeing Year 13 students into their final year of study and the group have really embraced the course. They are in their final stages of coursework submission with video footage being annotated, and their written analysis and evaluation having its final checks. They too, like Year 11, have finished learning the course content and are now spending the final few months before the exams revising and recapping content. Students are recalling content through the use of revision maps, oracy and competition.

Alongside all of the KS4 and KS5 course we offer, we are excited to launch GCSE Dance in Sept 2025.

We cannot wait to see what the rest of the year holds at BFS. If you want to keep up with everything fixture-related, follow us on Instagram (@BFS_TeamPE) and look out for out in-depth match reports every week in the newsletter.



APPRECIATION WEEK



Continued from Page 1

THANK YOU

To the wonderful ladies in Student Services and Admin, Thank you for sharing your knowledge, patience and kindness with me. I have really enjoyed settling into my new job. You are all so fun and hardworking, and every day is a pleasure. Thank you for taking me under your wing and teaching me the ropes.



MISS GALLACHER



MS CARTER

The DT and Food department would like to shout about our appreciation for Ms Carter! As a department we appreciate all your ideas, energy, organisation, efficiency and the incredible resources you create! Your students appreciate the amazing support, time and kindness that you show them. Thank you!



Thank you to the Site Team, Kitchen Team, the Cleaning Team, IT Support and Reprographics for all you do behind the scenes to keep the school running smoothly and making it a great place to work and learning!

School of Rock Celebration Breakfast



Last week, the cast, band and crew of our recent school production were invited to a celebration breakfast to show our appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication in the months running up to the show.



STEM

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

This week sees an important day in the scientific calendar, International Day of Women and Girls in Science! The official observance of the day was initiated by the UN to celebrate and shine light upon the often forgotten and overlooked women of science and to inspire future generation of women into STEM study and careers.

To celebrate and mark the occasion, our Science Department have chosen their favourite STEMInists for you all to learn more about and be inspired by!

STEPHANIE TRAVERS



MS BOARD

Stephanie Travers is a chemical engineer and the first black woman to stand on an F1 podium. Stephanie worked at Mercedes as a trackside fluid engineer and is now development lead at Mission 44, Lewis Hamilton's foundation for inclusivity in employment and education with a focus on STEM.



After working as a chemical engineer in industry for a short time, she applied to be Petronas Fluid Engineer at Mercedes F1 as part of a global search for recruits. She was amongst 7000 people competing for one position, most of which were men. Currently, only around 10% of each team's employees are female.

After her time on the podium at the Styrian Grand Prix in 2020, Stephanie was inundated with messages from girls expressing how inspiring and influential it was to see a young black woman achieving these career highlights, showing that it too could be possible for them to enter such an exclusive field.

DR FRY



MS KELLY

Dr Hannah Fry is a mathematician, author, professor, science communicator and ultimate STEMInist, known for her ability to make complex ideas accessible to everyone. She specialises in the mathematics of human behaviour and "everyday" data and has appeared in many Numberphile videos and BBC documentaries (which I highly recommend). Early in her career she ventured into stand-up comedy, bringing humour to maths and proving that numbers can be just as entertaining as they are powerful. She credits her success to her solving one page of maths problems per day for one summer break - so give this a shot when you find yourself bored in the school holidays!



DR SMETHURST



MR LALLY



Dr Becky Smethurst is a Royal Astronomical Society Research fellow at Oxford University (Christ Church). Her research focusses mainly on galactic evolution, supermassive black holes and star formation. In addition to her research, Dr Smethurst is also an incredible science communicator. She runs an award-winning YouTube channel called "Dr Becky" and she is also a co-host of one of my favourite podcasts: The Supermassive Podcast.

**DAME
ADERIN-POCOCK**



MR HAMILTON

Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock is a British space scientist and science educator. She is an honorary research associate of University College London's Department of Physics and Astronomy and has been the Chancellor of the University of Leicester since 1 March 2023.

Since February 2014, she has co-presented the long-running astronomy television programme The Sky at Night. She works in science at the highest level and can communicate science to all ages - my children loved her star-gazing programme on CBBC.



LEENA GADE



MR INNES

Leena Gade is a trailblazing British motorsport engineer who should be celebrated for her groundbreaking achievements in a male-dominated field. She made history as the first female race engineer to win the 24 Hours of Le Mans, achieving victory with Audi Sport Team Joest in 2011. Over the course of her career, she contributed to three Le Mans wins (2011, 2012, 2014) and played a crucial role in Audi's dominance in endurance racing. In 2012 Gade



won the FIA's "Man of the year" award - the name alone suggests how hard Gade had to work to achieve her success in such a patriarchal industry. Gade has also worked with Bentley Motorsport and Aston Martin F1 Team, inspiring countless women to pursue careers in STEM and motorsport. Fun fact: Leena's sister, Teena Gade, is also a motorsport engineer in F1, showing that the Gade family is truly a powerhouse in engineering! Her legacy highlights the importance of diversity and perseverance in motorsport.

DR ANDERSON



MISS HAWES

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836-1917) was the first Englishwoman to qualify as a doctor. Female physicians were unheard of in 19th century Britain and her attempts to study at a number of medical schools were denied. In 1865 she passed the Society of Apothecaries examinations and gained a certificate which enabled her to become a doctor. Anderson's determination paved the way for other women, and in 1876 an act was passed permitting women to enter the medical professions. In 1883, Anderson was appointed Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women, which she had helped to found in 1874, and oversaw its expansion.

In 1902, Anderson retired to Aldeburgh on the Suffolk coast. In 1908, she became the mayor of the town, the first female mayor in England. She was also a member of the suffragette movement. Thanks to her, many of our students can now study medicine. I also like the fact she moved into politics, showcasing how diverse scientists can be!



Colourised by Grant Kemp

DR CHRISTY



MR MILSTEAD



Dr Allison Christy is the world's leading expert on using superglue. She, along with her research team, have developed methods to slow down the activation of superglue to be able to produce plastics that could replace yogurt pots, disposable cup and cutlery. This plastic can be recovered (recycled) by up to 95%, compared to less than 50% for other "recyclable" plastics like polystyrene. Superglue is made from carbon dioxide, so not only is this solving plastic waste, but goes some way to reducing the greenhouse gasses that exist in our atmosphere. Dr Christy shows there are still innovators out there who can make a real impact on our day to day lives.

DOROTHY HODGKIN



Dorothy Mary Crowfoot Hodgkin (1910-1994) was a Nobel Prize winning English Chemist who advanced the technique of X-ray crystallography. Some of her most famous discoveries were the confirmation of the structure of penicillin, mapping the structure of

MISS CLORLEY

vitamin B12 and explaining the structure of insulin after 35 years of work. She was born in Egypt but, from the age of 4, was left with her grandparents to be raised in England. In 1936, after 2 years of teaching at Somerville College at Oxford University, she was appointed their first fellow and tutor in Chemistry, a role she held until 1977. It was during this time that she taught Margaret Roberts (later Margaret Thatcher) who, while Prime Minister, hung a portrait of Hodgkin in her office at Downing Street out of respect for her former teacher. Hodgkin was, however, a life-long Labour Party supporter. At the age of 28, she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis which confined her to a wheelchair for most of her later life, but she did not let this stop her! Hodgkin went on to win her Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1964 and remains the only British female scientist to have been awarded a Nobel Prize in any of the three sciences it recognises. She has been described as generous, humble and hard-working throughout her half-century long career. I love and respect her achievements in a world that was, at that time, dominated by men and her determination to carry on when she was struck with debilitating illness so early in her career.



LISE MEITNER



Lise Meitner (1878-1968) was a Vienna born physicist, who was one of the pioneers for the discovery of nuclear fission and hailed as 'The Mother of the Atomic Bomb'. Her research centred around radioactivity and nuclear physics. In 1938, she fled Nazi Germany and moved to Sweden to continue her research. Though her research was revolutionary, Meitner was given very little credit. In fact, in 1945, her colleagues received the Nobel Prize

MR WINNER

in Chemistry for the discovery of nuclear fission, yet Meitner was completely overlooked! Meitner sadly passed away in 1968, yet her legacy would live on. In 1992, the heaviest known element in the universe (at the time), element 109, was named Meitnerium in her honour. Meitner's story is full of setbacks and challenges. Yet despite that, she lived her life in the service of science and dedicated her life to further push the boundaries of science forward.



ROSALIND FRANKLIN

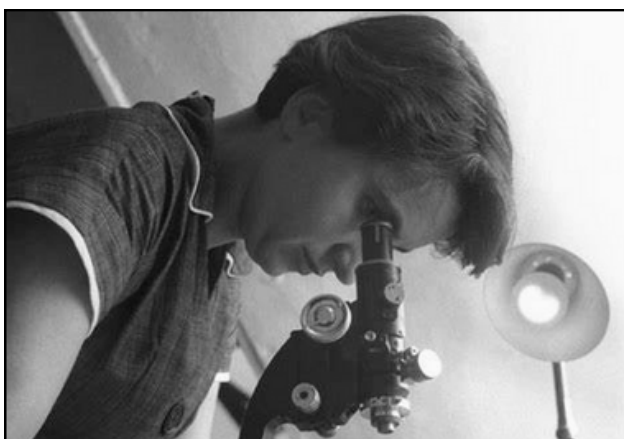


DR MARTIN



MR GILES

Rosalind Franklin was a British chemist and x-ray crystallographer. Her understanding of physics, mathematics, biology and chemistry allowed her to make breakthroughs that no-one else understood at the time. She prepared and analysed crystal structures to determine the structure of giant chemical lattices, viruses and DNA. Her work on graphite and viruses was recognised in



her lifetime and lead to her being hired by King's College London to help determine the structure of DNA. However, once the university had her data on DNA, they sacked her and gave the information to other researchers. Watson, Crick and Wilkins were given the credit for discovering the double helix structure of DNA and were awarded a Nobel prize in medicine (she was not mentioned). She then went on to make break throughs on the molecular structure of viruses at another research group. Unfortunately, she died of ovarian cancer at the age of 37 before others in her team were awarded a Nobel prize in chemistry for their work on viruses.



MS CARTER

FOOD TECH

Family Meals

This week the Year 11s have been hard at work completing their second piece of coursework - making three dishes in three hours. Well done to them.

This did mean that Years 7 - 9 were not cooking this week, so instead were tasked with cooking a meal for the family at home. Students did a great job and produced some amazing dishes for the family. Well done to Carmen, Jamie, Miranda and Tom for their amazing dishes.

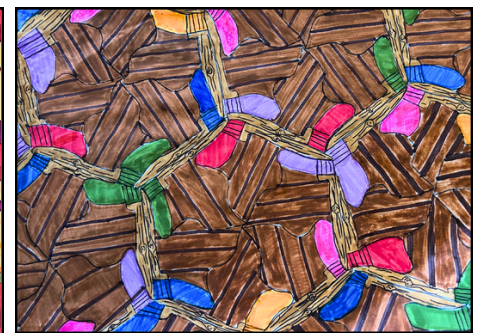


YEARS 7-9

MATHS

Geometry and Tessellation

In our Year 7 geometry unit, we engaged students in a dynamic and thought-provoking project centred around the concept of tessellations. This exploration introduced them to the intricate world of geometric patterns, where shapes seamlessly interlock to cover a surface without any gaps or overlaps. By delving into the principles of Monohedral Tessellations, where a single shape is repeatedly used to create complex, visually captivating patterns, students gained a deeper appreciation for the connection between geometry, art, and mathematics. The project not only expanded their understanding of shape properties and angles but also fostered creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills as they applied these concepts to their own unique tessellation designs.



YEAR 7

COMPUTER SCIENCE



MRS RAMANANDI

BEBRAS CHALLENGE RESULTS

More than 600 students from BFS joined students from around the world to participate in the Bebras Challenge this year. The Bebras Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. Each participant has 45 minutes to tackle a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving skills appropriate for their age group. The tasks are designed to allow every student the opportunity to showcase their potential, whether they excel in maths or computing, or not.

Gold certificates are awarded to the top 10% of participants, which in BFS, is 65 students! These students will also participate in next round, known as **The Oxford University Computing Challenge** in March. Congratulations to all Gold winners.



	First Place	Second Place	Third Place
Whole School	Sophie M (Y7), Dylan I (Y9) Score: 220/220	Bertie B, George B, Sammy H, Ada M, Stan R (Y7) Score: 214/220	Gracie T (Y7) Score: 209/220
Junior Category	Sophie M (Y7) Score: 220/220	Bertie B, George B, Sammy H, Ada M, Stan R (Y7) Score: 214/220	Gracie T (Y7) Score: 209/220
Inter Category	Dylan I (Y9) Score: 220/220	James C, Isaac J (Y8) Score: 204/220	Jake C (Y9) Score: 203/220
Senior Category	George A, Peter S (Y10) Score: 198/220	Henry D (Y10) Score: 181/220	Callum P, Will G Score: 179/220
Elite Category	Patrick F (Y12) Score: 185/220	Isaac S (Y12) Score: 181/220	David A (Y12) Score: 176/220



PERFORMING ARTS



MRS JEROME

A huge congratulations to our A Level Drama students who performed for their final practical exam. They each delivered a sensitively performed monologue, and their group performance of *Buckets* by Adam Barnard was sharp and witty. Well done! I am so proud of you. Thank you also to all the GCSE Drama students who came along to watch and support.

Mia & the Fish

Rehearsals are well underway for our school play. As part of the National Theatre Connections project, we are performing *Mia & the Fish* at BFS on 11 and 12 March, and then again at Bristol Old Vic in the final week before Easter. Tickets for our home performances will be on sale after half term.



ENGLISH



YEAR 10

Bristol Teen Book Awards

On Thursday, five BFS bibliophiles (book lovers) travelled to Clifton College to discover the winner of the Bristol Teen Book Awards. Authors Gavin Extence, O.R. Sorrel, Rachel Delahaye, and A.S. Hussain are multi-award nominated and winning Young Adult authors of thought-provoking novels that celebrate diversity. Chloe, Heidi, Rox, Issy and Jennifer read all the books nominated for this important local award and took part in voting. They also enjoyed a creative writing workshop with Gavin Extence and then sat in on the Q&A session with all authors. The winner was announced and then all authors signed copies of their books.



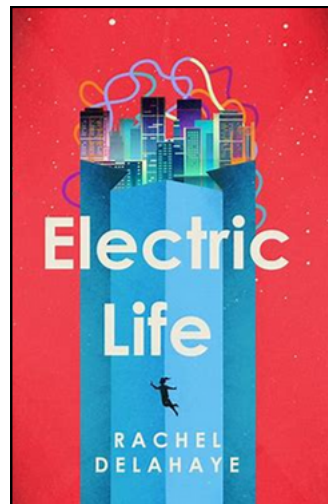
MS GRIFFITHS



Oh, and the winner is... Rachel Delahaye for *Electric Life*. Copies of all books (signed no less) are available in the school Library.

***Electric Life* by Rachel Delahaye**

A dystopian thriller which is set in a post-apocalyptic world which explores powerful aspects reflected in some of the ways our society is already developing. It asks how we know whether those in power are making decisions in our best interests or in their own. Who can/should we trust? And what is it that makes life worth living? And award ceremony scoop is that Delahaye is currently working on a sequel.



YEAR 12

Young Orator of the Year Competition

Gresham College runs an annual oracy competition for state school students in Year 12 to promote the art of communicating complex information in a clear, concise and compelling way. Students are asked to submit a five-minute, recorded presentation on a given topic.

Finalists are invited to attend a half-day, confidence-building and presentation skills workshop, before presenting in person at the grand final a few weeks later. Both workshop and final are held in London with travel costs covered by the College. Everyone who is a finalist receives a small prize. There are three further awards for the best presentations.

To find out more and enter the competition (by 21 March), click [here](#).

***The Witches* by Roald Dahl**

Review by Amelia, Year 7

Personally, I think that *The Witches* by Roald Dahl is somewhat of a classic. Roald Dahl's dark sense of humour certainly comes to life in this wonderful novel. *The Witches* is about witches - hence the name of the book - but with a twist.

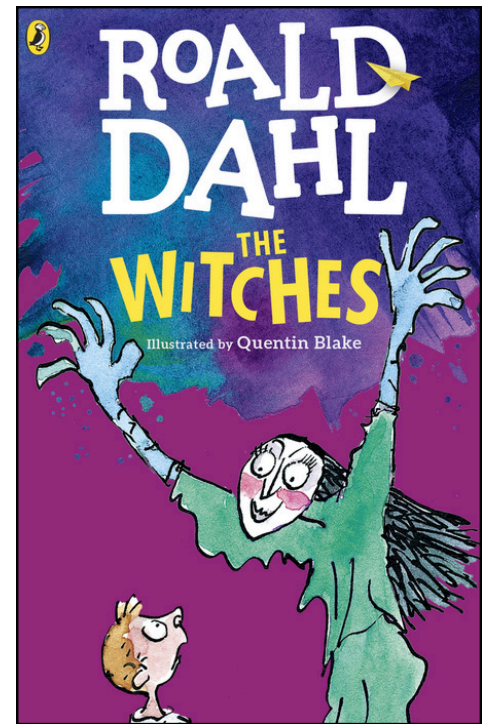
Real witches dress in ordinary clothes and look like ordinary women. But they are NOT ordinary. They feast on children. Literally. Although, the book lets your imagination wonder here... The witches' motto is this: 'one child a week is fifty- two a year. Squish them and squiggle them and make them disappear.' That is the motto of all witches.

So, a young boy, who is part Norwegian, must avoid being caught by the witches at all costs. Or the above will happen to him.

Can he save his own skin? Can he help save other children as well?

This book flows really well. It is short and to the point - yet not lacking description. Therefore, I can give nothing but praise to this book. Having you inevitably gripped to the very end, it releases your dark side too. I realise that I have made this book sound terrifying. It is not: it is scary at points. But the book leaves some questions unanswered, so I answered those questions in a scary way. It is unlikely for it to give you nightmares - but don't hold me to my word on that.

Enjoy Roald Dahl's most popular book: *The Witches*!



Creative Writing

Well done to Freddie, Y8, for his creative writing competition entry. Freddie worked incredibly hard on this piece of writing and we share a part of it here.

It's been six months since the war had begun. Base camps made all over the globe. Viruses clawing their way back up until human extinction. Lands destroyed, some turned into complete canyons, others completely turned into a flatland. Buildings toppled over, and a fog for all the people who got lost and shot during past invasions.

The day before an important invasion, a man came up to our camp in lavish felt clothes with golden shoulder plates, unlike the soldiers we fought he was unprotected, and he showed his face which again is unlike other soldiers. He walks up closer in his black shiny shoes, and his black silver buttoned coat.

He came to me and chuckled with a smirk look on his face, I realised exactly who he was. He was a tyrant, a mad man, a full-blown murderer, and responsible for this entire war. Compared to the entire camp he looked the liveliest, he seemed proud of his work. He looked all over the destroyed terrain he created. With a deep proud voice, he said 'Look around buddy, take a minute to realise what you are to me.' 'That's right, to me you are nothing, yet you still try to stop me.' This man was sick I had a bitter taste in my mouth from his words.

Trying to keep calm even though raging inside I said, 'What's stopping us from killing you where you stand?' He chuckled and started to laugh at the idea. I had to bite my own lip to stop me from punching him. He carried on in his mocking and maniacal voice. 'What's stopping you, you say?' 'I'll tell you what's stopping you.' 'Or, perhaps I'll show you.' He then opened his coat to reveal a heart monitor on his chest. With a smile he began to explain.

'If you kill me where I stand, then upon millions of people would die, in a matter of seconds when it flatlines, so go on, I dare you.' 'And you know what, if this entire camp isn't marching into my empire by tomorrow morning, I'll have my army march in here by then and turn your insignificant little camp into the biggest plateau no one will ever see.

A moment of silence filled the camp, he smiled and turned around walking off into the distance. I saw the bitter taste on everyone's faces petrified, I watched as people marched behind him with their guilt growing bigger and bigger, you could see it trailing behind them.



BFS SPORTS



MS SLATER

MRS BALLARD



BFS_TeamPE

MR LANGEVELDT

MR HOWARD

U12 GIRLS

This week our U12 girls' football team played in the GFA 7-a-side finals tournament at GFA Almondsbury. In freezing conditions, the team had 5 games to play in their group, with only the winner of each group playing in a final against the other group winner.

We started very positively with a 2-0 win against Five Acres High School thanks to two fantastic strikes from Lola and Lucy. Unfortunately, the other schools in our groups were extremely strong and despite some lovely football being played by both teams, we lost the remainder of our matches. We lost 4-0 to Winterbourne Academy, 2-0 to Rednock School, 4-0 to Cleeve School and, in an extremely close game, only a 1-0 loss to Denmark Road High School.

The squad worked extremely hard despite being up against some really strong opposition. Player of the tournament - Mollie for excellent positioning and decision making.



YEAR 7 BOYS



In an exciting clash between BFS Year 7 and RGS Year 7, the match proved to be a nail-biting contest that kept everyone on the edge of their seats. The game was fiercely contested, with both teams displaying remarkable skill and determination. After a tense battle, RGS managed to secure a narrow victory with a final score of 1-0. The players showcased great teamwork and sportsmanship, making it a memorable match for all involved. Congratulations to RGS Year 7 on their hard-fought win!

YEAR 8 & 9 BOYS

In a thrilling match, Year 8 (right) drew 2-2 with Redland Green School. It was a very close and competitive match with both teams playing some excellent football. Year 8 are having a great season!



In a tough game against Redland Green School, Year 9 (left) lost 4-1 but kept going until the end. I am really proud of their attitude and resilience. This team has true spirit which will take them far.

U14 & U16 GIRLS

Our U14 and U16 girls' football teams attended Blaise High School on Wednesday this week. A very cold afternoon required a lot of running and effort from the squads, and they rose to the challenge!

The U14s were one goal down at the end of the first half but a quick team talk and some motivation from Bethan B and they were back on their game, bringing it back with an equaliser within the first few minutes from Jess W and then another goal to secure the win in the last few minutes.

The U16s came out and from the start had the upper hand. A few early goals and they were on a roll, finishing 6-0 in the first half. Despite some tired legs in the second half, the girls kept their cool and played well, holding Blaise High School off from scoring any goals again, but only securing one more themselves.

A great effort and evening!



SWITCH RUGBY

We have been super lucky to have Switch Rugby join us in some of our Year 7 and 8 lessons this term. Switch Rugby focuses on engaging students in rugby, regardless of ability, previous experience or knowledge, or understanding of the game. All students who took part had a fantastic experience and showed off their talent, politeness and amazing skills. Thank you to Mrs Gardiner for organising this experience.



NOTICES

Attendance at Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have had such a fantastic first half of the year with fixtures, however attendance at some clubs have dropped off significantly and we want to use this as an opportunity to set standards.

No Train = No Game!

Please come to training to secure yourself a spot on the team and play in the many fixtures we still have upcoming after February half term. If you cannot attend training for any reason, you need to let Mrs Ballard, or the teacher of the session, know in advance.

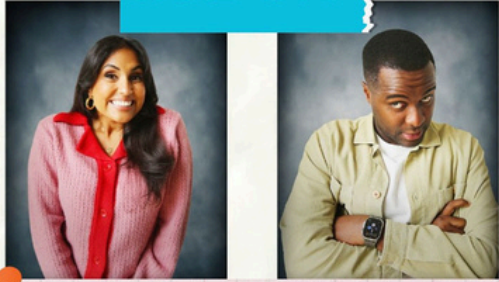
UPCOMING FIXTURES

Wednesday 26 Feb	Y11 Boys' Football vs Bristol Cathedral Choir School	Failand Sports Ground
Wednesday 26 Feb	U12 & U14 Girls' Football vs Fairfield High School	Fairfield High School
Monday 3 March	U14 Boys' Rugby Sevens	Collegiate School
Monday 3 March	U12, U14 & U16 Girls' Football vs Cotham School	Shine Sports Ground
Monday 3 March	Y8 Boys' Football vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College

COMMUNITY NOTICES



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... IS LOOKING FOR BRILLIANT BAKERS, AGES 9-14 FOR THE NEXT NEW AND EXCITING SERIES!

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH

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Head to the NHS website to find out more.

NHS

GIRLS HALF DAY FOOTBALL TRAINING

Shine
HOLIDAY CLUBS

Open To Girls Who Want To Improve Their Skills

Monday 17th Feb | Years 1 - 3 | 9 - 12pm
Wednesday 19th Feb | Years 4 & 5 | 9 - 12pm
Wednesday 19th Feb | Years 8 & 9 | 12:30 - 3:30pm
Friday 21st Feb | Years 6 & 7 | 9 - 12pm

Book your place at MyShine.co.uk

NETBALL TRAINING CAMP

HOT SHOTS

Shine
HOLIDAY CLUBS

Open To Netballers Year 7 - 11 Who Want To Improve Their Fitness

Friday 21st February 10:00 - 13:00
Bradley Stoke Community School (BS32)

£15 Per Child

Book your place at MyShine.co.uk