



# Weekly Update

## Message from the Headteacher

This week BFS celebrated British Science week with an engaging and interactive lesson by Becky from Science Made Simple, as well as science themed assemblies all week. I would like to thank Ms Board and Mr Mitchell for organising these events which aimed to explain and promote the many career options and opportunities within the field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

It was also lovely to see so many parents attend the Year 10 subject evening yesterday; a short parent feedback survey will be sent to you which we would be grateful if you could complete. Thank you to the parents who have already completed this survey following their respective subject evenings.

On behalf of the school I have submitted our serious concerns with the proposed improvements to the A4018. As the Headteacher, I feel that the safety of our students and staff on Concorde Drive in particular has not been fully considered in the current proposal, and therefore it is important for as many people as possible to raise any of their concerns. More information on the proposals, and the information to provide your feedback, is available [here](#). The consultation closes on Sunday 17 March.

This week we have a bumper newsletter which celebrates just a snap shot of the wonderful achievements of our students. I hope you enjoy it.

*Mrs S King  
Headteacher*

## The Scholastic Book Fair is returning!

We are hosting a book fair for all students from 25—29 March in the LRC. Year 7 students and their parents will also be able to visit during their subject evening on 28 March.

With over 200 titles to choose from, there is bound to be something for everyone. Prices start from as little as £2.99 and every book purchased raises money for the school to spend on new additions to the LRC that all students can enjoy. Payment for the books is cash only.

Look out for the leaflet coming home with your child for money off vouchers and free entry for children to major London attractions!



## This week in the Sixth Form

### UCAS Exhibition

Year 12 visited the University of the West of England on Tuesday for the annual UCAS exhibition.

With over 250 universities, apprenticeship providers and employers at the exhibition, it gave students a great opportunity to ask questions about their next steps, which courses are best suited to them and how they apply.

We also have our University Courses and Finance evening on Tuesday 30 April from 6:30pm. Letters will be sent out inviting students and parents in the coming week.



### Pastoral Day

Year 12 and Year 13 spent Wednesday in a variety of interactive sessions and workshops on topics from 'Making university decisions' for Year 12, to 'What employers want' for Year 13.

Year 12 then reflected on their time at the UCAS exhibition with their tutors. They are finalising a list of universities to visit and apply for, and will begin gathering evidence to support an amazing personal statement.

Meanwhile, Year 13 spent some time focusing on how to feed themselves once they 'fly the nest'. There was a cooking session focusing on meals on a budget for less than £1 per portion. Recipes included chilli and spaghetti bolognese— the type of food perfect for hungry students. A big thank you Mrs Ford and Mrs Day for their superb delivery of this session.



Later in the day, Year 13 took part in a tasting session (left) where they had to try and tell the difference between the branded food option and the non-branded food option with their future student budgets in mind. The results were fascinating; for most options they either preferred the non-branded option or couldn't tell the difference—the jaffa cakes were exactly the same, as was the lemonade, and both were a third of the price of the branded option.

Other practical advice shared on the day included how to successfully live independently; from washing clothes to budgeting. Bristol Free School makes no promises that your child will not bring home bags of dirty laundry for you to do for them, but we tried...

The remaining sessions for Year 13 included hints and tips on what to expect in their first week at university and what they should do in advance. Miss Norton also explained the importance of referencing and shared a guide on how to do so efficiently.

After a day of thinking about their futures, Ms Psalmon led a yoga session (below) which the students engaged with brilliantly. A lot have said they would do it again and that they felt relaxed afterwards. This was the aim of the session; to give strategies to reduce stress and look after their wellbeing.

Thank you to all the staff involved in such a valuable day for our students. A special thanks to Miss Norton for overseeing the logistics on the day.

*Mr Walker*





## A host of activity in the Maths department...

Firstly, a huge well done to Zoe Gibbs, who did so well in this year's UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge that, not only did she get a gold certificate, but they have invited her to their Mathematical Summer School program. This is a first for students of Bristol Free School! The Summer Schools aim to promote a love of problem solving and help build a community of young mathematicians.

Congratulations Zoe!

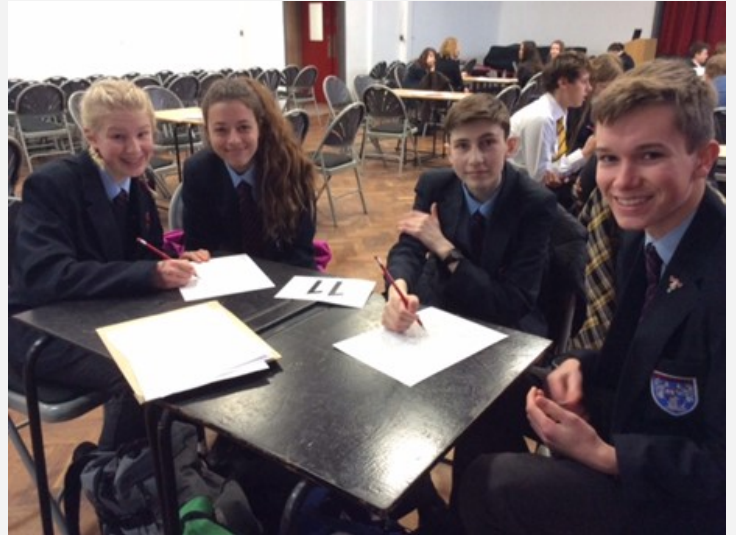
### Year 10 Maths Feast

This week four of our Year 10 students competed in the Bristol round of the Advanced Maths Support Programme "Maths Feast" event.

Ben, Polly, Zoe and Alex worked brilliantly as a team, showing excellent problem solving and reasoning skills in areas including discrete maths which is an A level topic. Undaunted by the challenges, each member of our team made excellent contributions and worked collaboratively with great success.

The event is all about exploring new areas of maths and enjoying the challenge, rather than competing, but I couldn't help being incredibly proud of the achievement of our team. We gained the highest scores in the first two rounds, and ended up in second place overall, against stiff competition from other Bristol schools. The event organisers were impressed with both our total score and the fantastic commitment shown by each member of our team.

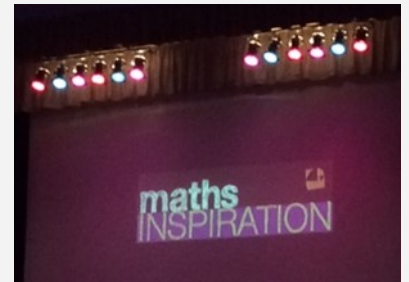
Well done team BFS!



### Maths Inspiration Show

All of our Year 12 mathematicians and physicists were treated to an afternoon of puzzles, boomerangs, spinning bicycle wheels and poker! Yes it was "Maths Inspiration", the show that demonstrates some of the exciting applications of studying maths and science beyond GCSE.

Jen Rogers, a statistician from Oxford University has an ever increasing media profile through communicating the truth of statistical significance, risk, and issues surrounding correlation versus causation. She explained how she had contributed to an investigation on the allocation of "random" sets by a well-known airline. More on that story [here](#).



Which is the odd one out and why?\*

Alex Bellos, a regular columnist for the Guardian and popular author, shared a series of popular puzzles that required lateral thinking and logic to solve, such as the image opposite. This was followed by puzzling with memes, links to Lewis Carroll, and working out how much further your head travels than your feet when walking around the circumference of the earth... all with plenty of audience interaction.

Hugh Hunt of Cambridge university captivated the teenage audience with balancing and boomerang antics. With the title "Maths in a Spin", Hugh's talk demonstrated the outcomes of various spinning situations, from ice skating to wobble boards. Highlights of this talk included the boomerang flying around the auditorium, (safely!) and an impressive trick involving a spinning top held horizontally by a piece of string. He described his work with Guy Martin, using mathematics to assist the fearless driver in the challenge to drive along a "Wall of Death" at over 100mph.

Finally, Ben Sparks of Bath University, an accomplished musician as well as maths teacher, took Sting's song 'The Shape of My Heart' as inspiration for his talk. He related the lyrics to the game of poker, explaining the underlying probability calculations. The problems when you do not understand how probabilities are calculated were demonstrated by conducting an audience experiment which had a surprising outcome! There was sage advice about the perils of gambling, when the odds are always stacked against you and the benefits of understanding the hidden likelihood. The show ended with a beautiful rendition of "The Shape of my Heart", a fitting end to a hugely entertaining and inspirational show.



Mrs Conway

**Clubs for Term 3 and 4**

Please [click here](#) for details of the clubs running until the Easter break.

The week commencing 18 March is **Red Week**.

**Vaccinations Reminder**

A reminder for Year 9 parents; the Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria/Polio and Tetanus vaccinations will be given in school on Wednesday 27 March.

**Little Shop of Horrors!**

Tickets for the school production of Little Shop of Horrors are on sale from Monday.



The show will be performed at Redmaids' School, Westbury Road, Westbury on Trym, Bristol BS9 3AW on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 April at 7:30pm.

Tickets will be available to buy for £5/£3 concessions from Student Services from Monday 18 March, with proceeds being used to cover some of the production costs.

**British Science Week**

This week is British Science Week, arguably the best week of the year!

Here at BFS we have been getting in to the spirit in a variety of ways. Science Club have been wrapping up their 'Save the World with STEM' topic, designing and constructing earthquake-proof skyscrapers that needed to be as aesthetically pleasing as they are strong.

Special mention goes to Heath and Joseph for their pioneering designs!

On Tuesday we were treated to an awesome day of shows with Becky from science communications company, Science Made Simple. The show was based on 'Engineering for Life', focusing on how Science and Engineering is used all the way through human life, from cradle to grave.

We had some brave volunteers who took part in live ultrasound scans of their arteries and some very trusting volunteers who let the science of sodium polyacrylate prevent them from a shower of fake urine!

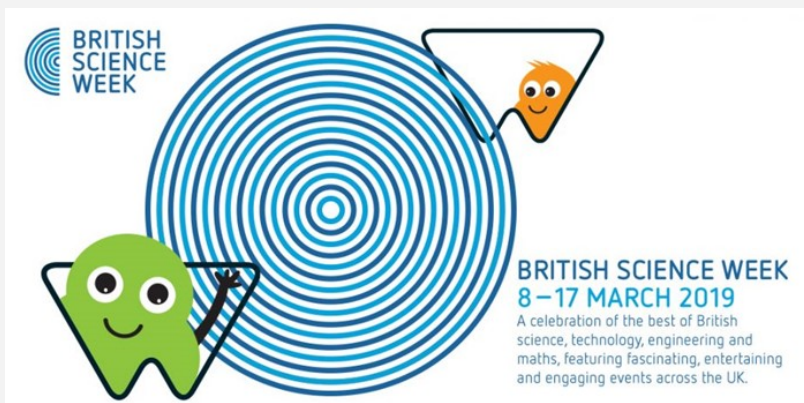


A big thank you to Becky, and also to FoBFS for funding this amazing day.

Mr Mitchell has been stretching our minds and imaginations with his assemblies, titled 'Architecture of the Cosmos'.

Finally, we are taking part in the official poster competition for British Science Week. If you love Science and would love to submit to this national competition see the info below or any of the posters around school for details.

The Science team will decide which five finalists to put through to the national final, so get your entries in before 29 March!



Miss Board



**SOLD OUT**

# Ladies' Fashion Show AND Pop-up Shop!

**SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS  
AT 50% OFF OR MORE!**

Colours. Refreshments provided by FoBFS

(FUN) DRAISING FASHION SHOWS

Tuesday 19th March 2019  
**BFS Fashion Show**

Hosted by and supporting your D&T department, as well as schools and communities in Nepal

Venue: Bristol Free School

Featuring upcycled garments created by the winners of BFS Design competition

**Doors open 6pm, show starts 6.30pm**

**Tickets: £5**

**VIP Tickets: £7.50 guaranteed front row seat**  
VIP tickets must be purchased by 15th February. Limited Availability  
Tickets to be purchased in advance.

Charity raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!  
For tickets and more information please contact:  
dfac@bristolreeschool.org.uk or 0117 9597200

Events in the next fortnight	
16/03/2019	
17/03/2019	Nepal Expedition Training Day
18/03/2019	Dynamics perform at St Monica's Trust, 2:30pm - 3:30pm
19/03/2019	Girls' football, U16s vs St Bernadette's, away Fashion Show, 6:30pm
20/03/2019	Y10 English trip to Cardiff - Macbeth Girls' football, U14 quarter-final vs Redland Green School, away
21/03/2019	Local Governing Body Committee Meeting Girls' Netball: Y7&8 vs Clifton High, home Year 10 Silver DofE Practice Expedition
22/03/2019	Girl's Football: U13 tournament (Y7) @ Coombe Dingle Y12 STEM girls to M49 Avonmouth Junction Project
23/03/2019	Year 10 Silver DofE Practice Expedition Treble Bass at Bristol International Jazz and Blues Festival (11am, Balloon Bar in Bristol SU)
24/03/2019	Year 10 Silver DofE Practice Expedition
25/03/2019	Book Fair Girls' Netball: Y9 vs Clifton High, home
26/03/2019	Book Fair Book Fair
27/03/2019	Flying Start Competition Final - Fleet Air Museum Men ACWY & DTP Y9 Boys' & Girls' vaccination Y11 Drama Practical Exam dress rehearsal 6:30pm
28/03/2019	Book Fair GCSE Drama Practical Exam Year 7 Subject Evening; 4:30pm - 7pm Headteacher Surgeries 5-6:30pm. Appointment only (booking available next week)
29/03/2019	Book Fair PSHE Day (KS4&5) Year 9 Bronze DofE Practice Expedition
30/03/2019	Year 9 Bronze DofE Practice Expedition
31/03/2019	

**Fixture Report**

Year 10 boys played in the Woodcock Shield on Wednesday afternoon against a Chipping Sodbury team who earlier in the year had beaten BFS 3-1.

After coming 1-0 down in the first 5 minutes, the boys stormed back to win 6-2 producing the type of display that saw them make champions of Bristol last season.

A superb solo goal by Xavier Burgess started us off, followed by an unstoppable free kick from Bailey Turner. In the second half, the hard working Kyle Widger was presented a hat trick of opportunities and took them all. A quality lob from Buster Reed saw us through in style.

We move forwards to the quarter finals later this term looking strong. All players involved deserve praise for a fantastic team performance.

Coach's man of the match: Kyle Widger.  
Players' man of the match: Jacob Holt.

Mr Cosgrove

**BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL**

**Cake Sale**

Friday 29th March - 3pm

Kindly take all cake donations to Student Services before school. Thank you

Students: don't forget your money