

## The month ahead

	NO CLUBS inc homework club
09/12/2019	Year 7 Christmas Concert heats, P5&6 Y10 rugby Bristol Schools' final
10/12/2019	Year 8 & 9 Bristol Schools' netball finals Y10 Food Tech fishmonger demonstration
11/12/2019	Subsea UK Competition Christmas Lunch and <b>Jumper Day</b>
12/12/2019	<b>Mock Election Day</b> Badminton School Science Outreach with Sixth Formers <b>Year 11 Sixth Former for a Day</b> (no Y12 &13 in school)
13/12/2019	Sixth Form Pastoral Day Badminton School Science Outreach with Sixth Formers Year 10 Rugby Final (Elite Schools' Cup)
14/12/2019	French Market Trip Dynamics Choir at Southbank Club, Bedminster
15/12/2019	French Market Trip
16/12/2019	Y11 Mock Results during tutor time Dynamics Choir at Southmead Hospital GCSE and A-Level Certificate Presentation Evening
17/12/2019	Y7 Christmas Concert, 5pm Y10 Resilience sessions Y11 NEA DT 'Making Day'
18/12/2019	Sixth Form Christmas Social Art Trip to London LIVE LOUNGE at lunchtime
19/12/2019	Y11 NEA DT 'Making Day' Christmas Extravaganza
20/12/2019	UCAS Application Deadline (internal deadline) Sixth Form Application Deadline for September 2020
21/12/2019	
22/12/2019	
23/12/2019— 03/01/2020	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>
04/01/2020	
05/01/2020	
06/01/2020	<b>Inset Day—school closed to students</b>
07/01/2020	
08/01/2020	
09/01/2020	Y11 Subject Evening - <b>NO CLUBS (early closure)</b>
10/01/2020	Y12 Bristol University Schools' Conference

### Clubs for Term 2

Please see the website for the fantastic offering that will run until the Christmas break.

<https://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/extra-curricular-clubs.php>

All clubs run from 3:05—4:15pm unless stated otherwise.

Please note that there will be no clubs on Monday 9 December, including Homework Club.

Clubs for Term 3 & 4 will commence on Monday 13 January—details will be shared via newsletter before then.

### FoBFS Easy Fundraising

If you still have Christmas shopping to do, why not raise funds for FoBFS to support the school at the same time?



Just visit [easyfunding.org.uk](https://www.easyfunding.org.uk) and search "Friends of Bristol Free School".

### Vacancies at BFS

Would you like to come and join our fantastic community school?

Please see our website for details of current recruitment, including cover supervisors and casual catering assistants.

<https://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/vacancies.php>



### End of Term logistics

Following a jam-packed fortnight of festive knits, yuletide lunches and Christmas concerts, details for the last day of term will soon be finalised.

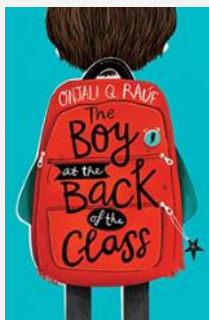
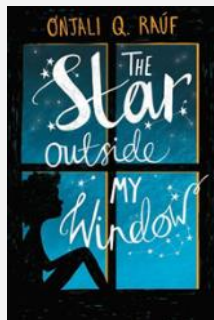
Students will be dismissed at 12:30pm on Friday 20 December, following a morning of festive celebrations (at which full attendance is required!)

## Books for Christmas – what's on your list?

A message from Esther Menon, Lead English Adviser from the Russell Education Trust

As we enter the Christmas season and thoughts turn to gifts for friends and family, we hope that our students, across all five schools in our Trust, have a book, if not several, on their wish lists...and our teachers and parents of course!

These in particular have piqued my interest as gifts for younger readers this year. Today's young adult fiction is often an engaging quick read for adults too, so some of you might fancy reading them alongside your children. I hope they offer some shopping inspiration. Don't forget, of course, the Bristol Free School Suggested Book List, which is available in the LRC. Hard copies were distributed to students last week so do retrieve these from their school bags!

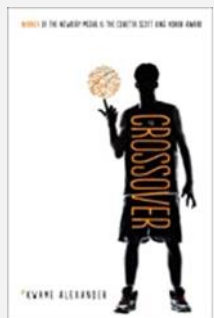


*The Star outside my Window* and *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Rauf

We are excited to be welcoming this inspiring author to Bristol Free School in the Spring of 2020. We do hope all our Year 7 -9 students will have read one, if not both of her books. *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, (winner of the Blue Peter Book Award 2019 and the Waterstones Children's book prize 2019) explores the refugee experience and the importance of relationships, kindness and a sense of community – all innate an part of our BFS values. *The Star Outside my Window* is a tender and hopeful story which touches on the sensitive issue of domestic violence from a child's perspective.

*Ketchup Clouds* by Annabel Pitcher

Made up of fictional letters from a fifteen-year-old girl to a man on death row in Texas, which turn out to be a way for her to share her own guilty secrets. The story is moves through being gripping, funny, sweet and dark. Pitcher's other YA novels, *My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece* and *Silence is Goldfish*, are also worth checking out.

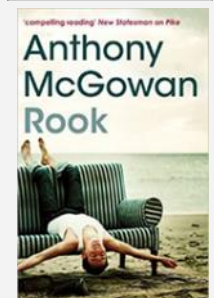


*Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

For those with sport and particularly basketball in their blood, an energetic and innovative read. Written in short sections of text in a poetic style, the episodes of this text touch on relationships, sport and the rules of both games. This prize-winning book has been a popular read with the three boys I have passed it to.

*I Am Thunder* by Mohammed Khan

A first novel by an East London teacher inspired by the true story of events of three British schoolgirls travel to Syria to join so-called Islamic State. The story is told by a distinctive female narrator and offers a thoughtful and powerful message of hope, exploring issues of teenage independence, radicalisation, naivety and independence. A fascinating read!



*Rook* by Anthony McGowan

Published by the always excellent Barrington Stoke who produce 'super-readable books' for students who find reading more difficult, this book is accessible but addresses topics that will be of interest to Key-Stage-3-age students. It is a gripping tale of two brothers and a rescued rook. Others in the same series are also excellent: *Brock*, *Pike* and *Lark*. McGowan's other young adult titles (not dyslexia friendly) also make for gripping reading: *The Knife that Killed Me* (dealing with gangs and knife crime) and *Henry Tumour* (about a boy's relationship with his brain tumour).

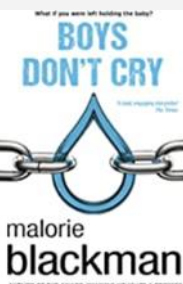
*Boys Don't Cry* by Malorie Blackman

Anything by this previous children's author is worth reading for Key Stage 3 and 4 readers. This particular book is now on the GCSE specification and some of our Year 10 students will be reading it later in their English course. But it's a safe bet as a present for any of our Year 11 students who won't be studying this but can certainly read it for pleasure. A book about a boy about to get great A level results who finds himself with a baby to look after. Edgy, exciting and, in my experience, impossible to put down – a great read for either gender.



*You are Awesome* by Matthew Syed

A funny and empowering book to encourage young people to find the confidence to reach their potential. This book, from the best-selling mindset author Matthew Syed, uses examples of successful people from Mozart to Serena Williams to show how success is earned rather than given. Most importantly, Syed argues that with a growth mindset, and hard work, there's no reason why anyone can't achieve their dreams.



*Thornhill* by Pam Smy

This is part novel and part graphic story. Ella moves house and discovers dark secrets next door in the abandoned children's home. A hypnotic read that also has echoes and references to classics such as *Jane Eyre*, *The Secret Garden* and *Rebecca*.

We are proud that so many of our young people feel strongly about the environment and their ability to make a difference. This book collects Thunberg's speeches in one volume – a great role model for our students, in both words and action.

