

Words from the Headteacher

It has been an eventful week with news of the worsening COVID -19 virus situation, now categorised as a pandemic. In school, we have been promoting awareness of how to reduce the spread of infection and reminding students of the important Public Health England recommendations for frequent hand washing.

We are following closely advice from the Department for Education, Public Health England and liaising with the Trust. See separate letter attached.

Meanwhile, I would like to commend Year 11 and Year 13 students who have been absolutely fantastic in the way that they have approached their second round of mock exams. They really are a credit to the school and such powerful role models for our younger students.

It was lovely to welcome so many Year 10 parents and carers to our Year 10 parents evening on Thursday. Year 10 have been studying for their GCSEs for over six months now, so feedback from their teachers is so important at this stage to support their studies and to prepare for Year 10 mocks in term 6.

I would also like to congratulate Year 9 Computer Science students who made it through to the national finals of the SubSea competition that took place last Friday in Aberdeen. Thanks to Mrs Sherman and Miss Board who accompanied the students. Everyone who went were clearly enthused by such a fantastic experience. Please read their report below.

Our Student Council will be meeting next week to review the 'Tumps' development and make future plans for our up and coming House system. It is business as usual here at BFS.

*Mrs S. King
Headteacher*

SubSea Grand Final in Aberdeen

After 4 months of waiting for the Grand Final, we were ready! Bags were packed, students prepped for an early start. Then....Mrs Sherman received a message that changed everything....Flybe was about to collapse. Mrs Sherman and Miss Board were still determined to get the students to Aberdeen. After much deliberation and many different ideas, the organisers managed to book us on a flight that evening with an alternative airline.

Hurrah! It meant missing the afternoon activities and tour of Fugra site but we would be there for the competition on Friday. The airport was eerily quiet, a little bit early to check in, feeling a mixture of relief, tiredness and a little bit bewildered, we were accosted by BBC Points West - were we willing to be interviewed? Yes we were! Bucket list item ticked for Miss Board! After successfully getting through security, we gathered around the phone to watch our TV debut. Smiles and excitement and a bit of embarrassment all round. In the end we were only 9 hours late!

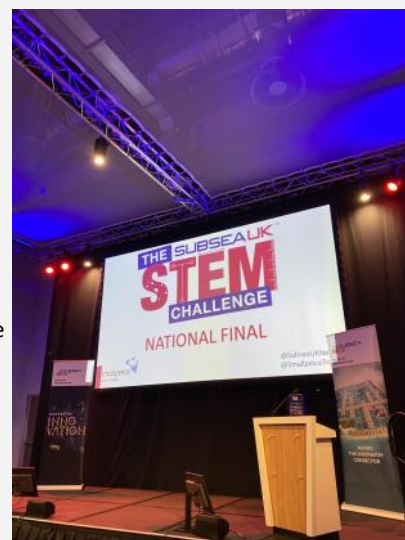
In the morning we walked over to P&J Live for the competition and the students got straight into the task, demonstrating fantastic teamwork and communication skills in planning their strategy. Clear roles defined, every student was engaged. By lunchtime, most tasks were on track; engineering division had a few technical issues but after lunch the plan of attack was for all team members to support with the rest of the build and programming tasks. The presentation was slick and professional with high praise for their TV advert.

Nervously waiting for the results, the students felt proud of their performance but doubting the chance of doing well - this was unfounded as they were incredible! Results were in and we came second to the team we felt were our main competitors. One judge came over and told us that there were only 2 points between us and the winning team.

We are so pleased with the attitude and the approach the students had to the whole event - we had particular comments from the technical crew and some of the sponsors about how polite and articulate all of them were. An absolute credit to the school and what a amazing experience!

Well done to Charles, James, Tom, Madi, Sophie and Noah.

Mrs Sherman and Miss Board



Engineer for a Day

On Monday 3 March, six Year 8 girls went to Bristol Aerospace Museum to take part in a girls only 'Engineer for a Day' STEM event, organised by MBDA. Its aim was to encourage the further study of STEM subjects and to attract more women into STEM careers. The day included designing and making challenges, application of maths and science to real world examples and an amazing opportunity to meet real female engineers and find out what engineering really is about with a 'networking lunch'. The BFS girls designed and made an ingenious solution to the given problem (getting tomatoes down a Nepalese mountain), and although they did not move the highest quantity of tomatoes, they were awarded Best Design. We even had time to visit the museum afterwards!

Well done to Leah, Aran, Olivia, Ruby, Bella and Maha.

Mrs Gordon, Design & Technology



Climate Change Strike—Student Report

It was a day I'll remember for decades to come. I started to notice that things were different by the University with the streets, which were normally really busy with cars, busy with lots of people all walking in the same direction. You knew they had come from all over the city for the same reason; there was a camaraderie amongst us. We walked down Park Street in the middle of the road until we got to College Green. We waited in the rain for an hour until the speakers started. First on was one of the organisers followed by BirdGirl, all of which added to the excitement as we waited for Greta. Then the moment arrived and on to the stage she came; "Greta, Greta, Greta," chanted the crowd. And then she started speaking; tens of thousands of people listened intently. "We are the change, and change is coming. Whether you like it or not" she said inspiringly. And then we all marched. I was lucky enough to be near the front and got to see her close up! There were police horses and vans to close the streets. With Greta at the front behind a big banner closely followed by a samba band who were amazingly energetic and uplifting. We walked around the city centre for an hour until we got back to the Hippodrome. Then we came home. What an experience it was to see and hear Greta and to march as one: united as a force fighting against climate change.



Elliot Year 7. Eco Club member.

World Book Day

Bristol Free School celebrated World Book Day in style. Students and staff alike dressed as several of their favourite literary characters for the day; some even managed to coordinate by bringing all our favourite Matilda characters to life.

The whole school had a special focus in lessons through the coming of age novel 'We Come Apart' by Sarah Crossan and Brian Conaghan. Poignant and meaningful conversations took place throughout about the importance of literacy in understanding different cultures. On top of that, students were treated to a look at the evolution of Batman comics in their English lessons.

Thank you to all students and staff who took part to make the day special and I hope we all took home some ideas about the personal wellbeing and academic success regular readers have been proven to enjoy.

Mr Gowen, English Teacher



Author Visit

Alex Wheatle's visit did not disappoint! The students were engaged by his life story, how it influenced his writing and his creative writing workshop.

Throughout the session, the students asked multiple questions ranging from: "Which of your books is most personal to you?", "How did reading save you?" to "How do you embarrass your children?" Alex answered them all honestly and with good humour. The students took part in an exclusive workshop run by Alex which focused on building the foundations of your story with an interesting character and a looming problem. The students' characters were dynamic and interesting.

Overall, it was an excellent afternoon all round.

Miss Ludwell, English Teacher



Mr Harris' Blog

Following our trip to Edexcel Pearson headquarters to give our opinions on the new English GCSE texts, and our attendance at the #Diversity In Literature conference, Mr Harris has been commissioned to write a blog post:

'I became an English teacher because I truly believe that the study of English is the study of what it means to be human: therefore through the study of great texts students can go on to be real engines of change in society. Certainly I fell in love with English through reading a huge variety of books from a range of cultures, and I want our students to have the same opportunities to experience humanity and its stories in all their multifarious glories. In the English Department we are looking forward to not only embracing the new GCSE texts, but introducing a greater range throughout our whole curriculum. This blog post is about why we think that diversity in literature is essential'.

'Who are you reading' is published on the Pearson website here if you want to find out more:

<https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/news/schools-blog/2020/03/who-are-you-reading.html>

Keep an eye out in the newsletter for the upcoming changes to the English curriculum!



The month ahead

16/03/2020	Y10 Rugby Sevens competition, at Colston's School Hollow Trees performing at Elmlea Primary School
17/03/2020	Y8 Boys & Girls, and Y9 Girls HPV vaccinations (Drama Hall)
18/03/2020	Y8 and Y11 football vs RGS at Kellaway 4:00pm KO Science Week
19/03/2020	Battle of the Bands - lunchtime Science Week
20/03/2020	Army Careers visit Science Week Eco club recycling meeting with Bristol Waste, 12:40-2:10pm
21/03/2020	Hollow Trees performing at Southmead Library, 3:30pm
22/03/2020	
23/03/2020	NO CLUBS inc homework club
24/03/2020	Y13 Psychology revision workshop - Vue Cinema Y10 football vs Fairfield at Fairfield School 4:00pm KO Bristol University Drones Project with Science Club
25/03/2020	Y7 and Y9 football vs RGS at Kellaway 4:00pm KO Sixth Form Pizza and Film Evening
26/03/2020	Scholastic Book Fair starts today Y7 Subject Evening - NO CLUBS (early closure)
27/03/2020	Y11, 12 & 13 PSHE Day Deadline for student finance applications (internal deadline) Fashion Show
28/03/2020	
29/03/2020	Treble Bass performing at the Bristol International Jazz and Blues Festival (Colston Hall, 12:15pm)
30/03/2020	
31/03/2020	Y10 to Munich
01/04/2020	Y10 to Munich Year 7 Rugby Sevens competition, at Colston's School 2:00pm KO Scholastic Book Fair ends today
02/04/2020	School Production at Redmaids' Y10 to Munich
03/04/2020	School Production at Redmaids' Y10 to Munich
04/04/2020	Y10 to Munich
05/04/2020	

Clubs for Term 4

Please see the website for the clubs running for Term 4.

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

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

Please note there are no clubs, including homework club, on the following dates:

- Monday 23 March
- Thursday 26 March

Return to the Forbidden Planet

The BFS cast members are working hard to ensure that they are ready to perform this year's performance of:

'Return to the Forbidden Planet'

at

Redmaids' School

Westbury Road, Westbury-on-Trym

Bristol BS9 3AW

on

Thursday 2 April and Friday 3 April 2020

at

7:30pm.

Tickets are available to purchase at Student Services during break and lunch times

£5.00 Adults

£3.00 Concessions

TikTok safety tips

We have seen TikTok increase in popularity amongst our students and would like to share some useful information with parents and carers about keeping this app safe for their children.

<https://www.connectsafely.org/tiktok/> is a parent guide to the app explaining how it works and how to set up security and safety features.

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit> is an app by the BBC, which supports children using smart phones. It sends prompts to students as they write messages to help them take control of their online presence.



ART COMPETITION

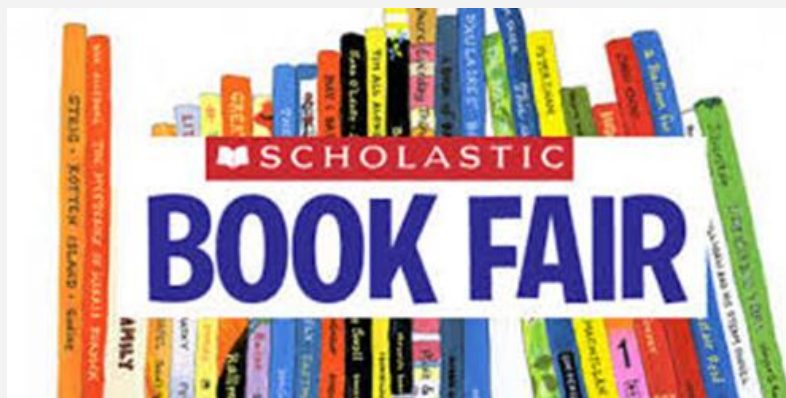


CAN YOU MAKE SOME ART OUT OF RUBBISH? TO CELEBRATE GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY, ECO CLUB AND THE ART DEP. WOULD LIKE YOU TO GET CREATIVE. ENTRIES TO MISS DAWSON BY 16TH MARCH, PRIZES TO BE WON!



The Book Fair is back!

26 March to 1 April 2020



We are delighted to have Scholastic, with their great range of books back at Bristol Free School.

Students will have the opportunity to come into the LRC to browse and buy from the latest collection of well-known and new authors. Every penny spent helps to raise money for the school, which we re-invest in fabulous book choices for our own LRC.



Science Week Poster Competition

Are you in year 7, 8 or 9?

Do you love Science?

Are you creative?

**Then why not enter the British Science
Association poster competition to celebrate
Science Week?**

**The theme for your poster should be 'Our
Diverse Planet' and should link to Science in
some way.**

**You can enter individually or as a team.
Posters should be either A3 or A4 size and
super fun!**

**All entries need to be submitted to Miss
Board in CF12 before Monday 30th March
There will be prizes for the top five!**





Ladies' Fashion Show **AND** Pop-up Shop!

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

Colours.

[FUN]DRAWING
FASHION SHOWS



**Friday 27th March 2020
Bristol Free School**

Bristol Free School, Concorde Drive, Bristol, BS10 6NJ

Doors open 6pm, show starts 6.30pm

Tickets: £5 each - Concessions ticket £2.50

Tickets to be purchased in advance.

Including a catwalk showcase of student fashion designs

Raffle and refreshments provided by FoBFS

Raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!

For tickets and more information please contact:
dtfac@bristolfreeschool.org.uk or 0117 9597200
Parent pay or cash through Miss Burman





Advanced Cycle Training Easter 2020 at Clifton High School

- Level 3 Advanced Cycle Training for confident cyclists
- 4 hrs of training over two afternoons
- You need a roadworthy bike & helmet
- Supported by Bristol City Council



Parental contribution is only £35 for Level 3

Book online to secure your place:

<https://www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/bristol-holiday-courses>

FRIENDS OF BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL
presents

Back by popular demand, Bristol's ultimate BritPop tribute, SuperNova will be transporting you back to the 1990's with the sounds of Blur, Oasis, Pulp, The Charlatans, The Stone Roses, James, Suede, The Verve and many more... You're in for a nostalgic time-warp treat, so rewind and get ready to scream and dance to all the anthems of your youth.

SUPERNOVA BRITPOP

DOORS OPEN 7:15PM - 10PM FINISH ADULTS ONLY LICENSED BAR



FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2020

**BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL
DRAMA HALL**

CONCORDE DRIVE, BRISTOL BS10 6NJ

Tickets on sale from
14th March

TICKET ONLY EVENT £7 WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/FRIENDS-OF-BRISTOL-FREE-SCHOOL

All proceeds will be spent on school improvement plans for the Tumps project (outdoor space) along with equipment and experiences for students across all year groups, which cannot be funded through the school budget.