

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope this week's newsletter finds you all safe and well. I would like to pass on my best wishes to all our Muslim families who have started the holy month of Ramadan yesterday.

This must be the strangest start of any term in my school career and I do hope our students are remaining positive and managing to be productive with the learning tasks that have been set for them at the start of term 5.

I want to thank all the staff who supported the Easter keyworker childcare provision over the two week holiday. It was very successful and very much appreciated by students who attended and their families.

In this week's newsletter we wanted to share some of the creative things students have been up to over the last few weeks. It is fantastic that we have received so many photos and emails showing the range of creative projects students have been spending their time doing during the lock down. I urge you to keep sending in photos and any updates of anything that students have achieved that we can share and celebrate.

This week we have been making plans to develop our remote learning curriculum. A letter will be sent home to explain how we will deliver new learning and the introduction of 'key tasks' which will have teacher feedback. We hope this will reduce anxiety for families in this extended time of home schooling and it will help us to identify quickly students who need more support and encouragement. If you are experiencing any issues with home learning please email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk and we will make sure the email is directed to a member of staff who is able to help you.

I heard yesterday on the news, pollution levels in Bristol have reduced by 30% due to the reduction in traffic within the city centre. The quieter towns and cities seem to have been taken over by the glory of nature (or was it always there and we were too busy to notice?). People seem to have more time for each other. We have time to help the vulnerable and elderly people in our community. The news story of the Bristol group 'mums that run' who have been delivering essential medication to the elderly and vulnerable as part of their daily runs is just one wonderful example of this positive desire to help in this national crisis. Some positives in a terrible time for our country.

In the spirit of making a positive contribution, we are going to encourage students to work together virtually to support the 2.6 Challenge which has been set up from the date of this year's London Marathon in a bid to fill a £4 billion charity black hole. Year Leaders will be explaining more in their filmed messages next week. We hope this will be a way to engage students, families and tutor groups to do something creative, practical and positive for students at this unprecedented time. Any ideas most welcome of ways we can forward this excellent cause.

Come on BFS get creative and do something positive to make a difference!

With kind regards
Mrs S. King, Headteacher

Free access to: The National Theatre digital collection

We are delighted to announce that we have signed Bristol Free School up for access to the National Theatre digital collection. This unique catalogue includes full length, high quality recordings of 30 world-class productions: Mr Gowen strongly recommends the performance of *Frankenstein*.

To access this wonderful resource through Bloomsbury's award-winning digital library Drama Online, use the following link and log-in details:
<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com>

Username: 8Nvz3lhzg-

Password: 1Lg/6Vb%f*

Happy watching!

Free School Meal Vouchers Update

To all our families registered for Free School Meals, please make sure you check you email inbox and your junk folders for the eCodes sent to you from Edenred, which is the national voucher scheme launched over the Easter holidays. Please note that the first voucher eCodes issued are due to expire on Friday 8 May, so if you have not yet redeemed them, please do so, so you don't miss out. The vouchers will continue to be issued fortnightly until the end of the school closure period.

We understand from the DFE that the Edenred system has been extremely busy and so some people will have experienced difficulties when first trying to redeem their vouchers. The website has now been improved and response times should be quicker, but please be patient and assured that the vouchers do eventually come through. Avoiding peak times which are weekdays 9:00am—5:00pm helps.

Wildlife House Project—Star Award



Ms Street would like to award the creative star award to Ollie P in Year 9.

He has completed an amazing Wildlife House project where he researched, created ideas, made a prototype and wrote an evaluation with other people's opinion.

Ms Street was very impressed with his creative problem solving and commitment to the project.

Congratulations Ollie! We look forward to displaying your work once we return to school.



The 2.6 Challenge is replacing the London Marathon and encouraging people to do alternative fundraising activities for UK Charities.

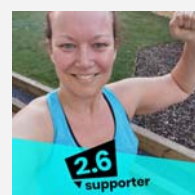
This is a challenge for all ages and abilities! All you need to do is think of an activity based around the numbers 26 or 2.6 that suits your skills and complete it on or from Sunday 26 April.

This could be something as simple as pledging to run 2.6 miles as your daily exercise to doing 26 minutes of yoga, or juggling for 26 minutes (or maybe just 2.6 minutes) non-stop.

Don't worry if you're not able to get out your house or flat for now – you can do your 2.6 challenge anywhere inside too!

There are no rules, **apart from the Government guidelines on how to exercise safely during this time**. Whatever you can do, you can be a part of it – the main thing is to get active, have fun and pledge whatever you can to a UK Charity of your choice.

Mrs Sherman's 2.6 Challenge



Mrs Sherman's 2.6 Challenge is to run 26.2 mile over two weeks (26 April to 3 May) to raise money for The Pahar Trust in Nepal and vulnerable communities locked down in Nepal.

If you would like to sponsor Mrs Sherman, go to JustGiving and search for her name. Alternatively, go to twitter @BFS_CS and find the link.

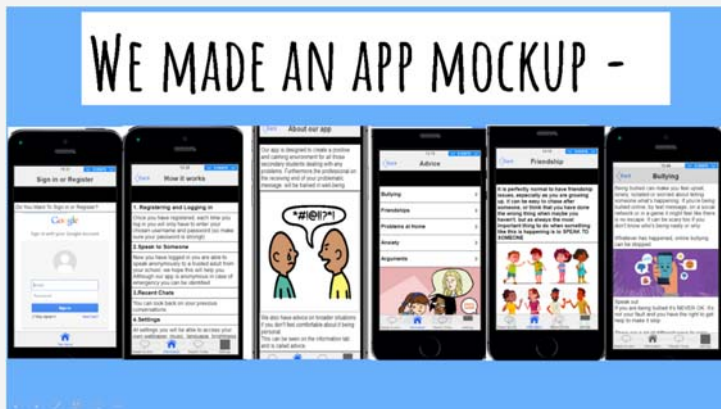
Amazon Web Services (AWS) GetIT and Future Foundations App Competition Success for Year 8 Bristol Free School Students



In September, Year 8 were invited to take part in an app competition launched by Amazon Web Services (AWS) and a representative from Just Eat - there was one rule: each team must be at least 50% female.

29 students forming 5 teams decided to take up the challenge.

In October, representatives from each team accompanied Mrs Sherman and Mrs Morris to a boot camp at Amazon HQ in London to attend a workshop on how to design and develop their app and essential team work skills.



From this point onwards, every lunchtime and once a week after school, CG14 was buzzing with creativity as students developed their ideas ready for the in-school heats presentation. After one practice presentation and initial feedback, the teams were ready.

All ideas were fantastic making it very difficult for the judging panel to select only two teams to go through to the Semi Finals. After much deliberation 'Work Well Together' and 'WithU:ForU' were chosen. Both teams continued to make further improvements to their entries in preparation for submission to AWS. Unfortunately the school then had to close before the submission date.

However, the two teams submitted their final presentations independently. Inevitably, the judging was delayed but the outcome has now been confirmed. One of the BFS teams has made it through to the Top 10 - Team KHAKE with the 'Work Well Together' app which gives online well-being support for students, allowing those dealing with difficult and distressing dilemmas to contact a professional working at their school confidentially.

The Final was due to take place at the Amazon Summit at the end of April but this has now been cancelled. Discussions are currently taking place to decide whether the Final will be virtual or rescheduled for September. In the meantime, Team KHAKE will be able to further improve their presentation in anticipation of the final.

We are so proud of every single student who entered. The standard was so high and our students were so supportive of one another. We could have submitted all 5 teams for their ideas and quality of their presentations. In total, 95 schools and 156 teams took part. To have one of our teams in the Top 10 is such a fantastic achievement!

Congratulations again to Team KHAKE - Kate, Holly, Aila, Katie and Ella.

Mrs Sherman



BFS Bake Off Challenge

We have had an amazing response to the Bake Off Challenge and a range of entries from students in different year groups.

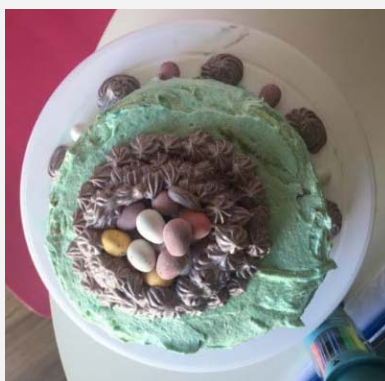


A Giant Cookie by Emily Y9

An Edible Easter Garden
by Keziah Y9 & Anita Y7



Easter Cup Cakes by Ruby Y7



An Easter Sponge Cake
by Connie Y7



A Giant Chocolate Easter Nest and a Bunny Fruit Salad
By Megan Y9



Bunny Burrowing for Chocolate
by Martha Y7



Strawberry Chocolate Mousse Cake
by Natasha Y9



Double Chocolate Easter Cheesecake
by Olivia Y7



Hot Cross Bunnies by Susie Y7



Easter Delight by Ellie Y8

BFS Bake Off Challenge continued



Chicken Shawarma
by Izzy Y7



Easter Biscuit Basket
by Sophie Y7



Cinnamon Buns
by Rory Y9



Lunch
by Josh Y8



Easter Egg Cheesecake
By Cleo Y9



Chocolate Easter Tart
By Holly Y8



White Chocolate Cheesecake
by Isabella Y8

Really Rubbish Art Project

As a cross curriculum project with Eco Club and Art; students were asked to create a sculpture out of recyclable materials.

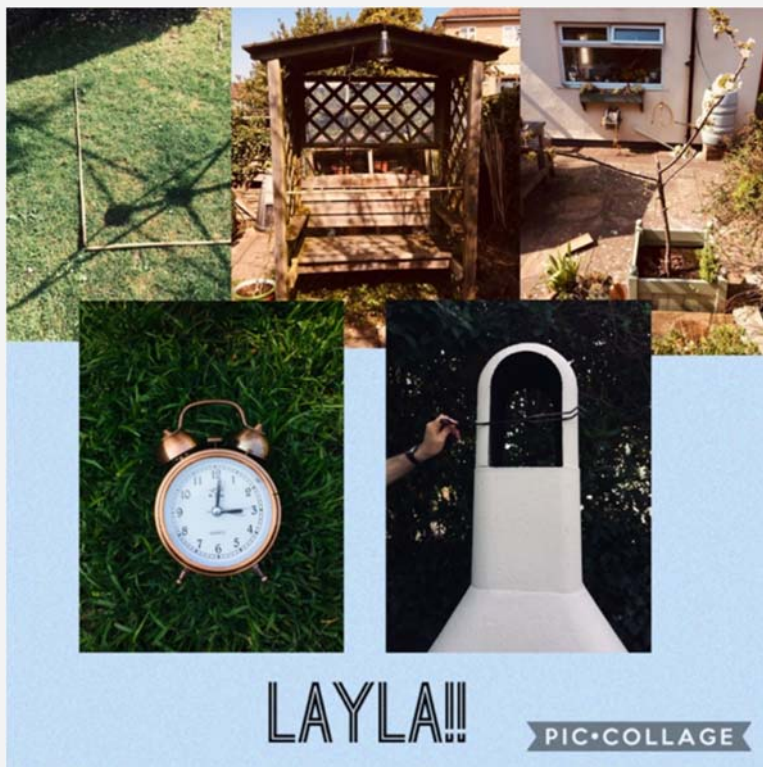


Bristol Free School Easter Challenge

Thank you to all those who entered the BFS Easter Challenge – you have amazed us with your creativity! The overall winner is Layla Y7 for her very creative entry to the photography challenge.

Honourable mentions for Owen Y8 photography challenge and Isabella Y8, Natasha Y9, Cleo Y9, Eloise Y9 and Keziah Y9 for their Bake Off entries (see below).

Finally, congratulations to Luke Y8 for his research into the many (very weird) and wonderful ways that Easter is celebrated around the globe – I did not know that Norwegians traditionally release new crime fiction novels over Easter!





The BFS Challenges Continue

Given that there may be times over the next few weeks when you are running out of things to do, we have decided to keep the Easter Challenge open until the end of Term 5. All entries should be submitted to Easterchallenge@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

The Challenges:

- 1) **BIOLOGY:** Find the strangest living organism in your house or garden (NOT one of your family members!)
 - Use the internet to identify your organism
 - Identify which Kingdom it belongs to (Animal, Plant or Fungus)
 - Draw the organism
 - Research and submit 5 interesting facts about your organism
- 2) **ENGLISH:**
 - Find something in your house that starts with each letter of the alphabet
 - Write a story that involves all 26 of the objects you have just found
- 3) **FOOD TECHNOLOGY:**
 - The BFS Easter Bake Off – for more details on this challenge join the Bake Off Google Classroom using code: tmiuaww
- 4) **COMPUTER SCIENCE:**
 - Easter programming challenge – Develop a program to calculate how many calories are in all the Easter Eggs/chocolate you receive.
 - Hint: input required to ask how many eggs, process required to calculate total calories, output required to give the result.
 - Eggstra Challenge 1: Compare the number of eggs eaten against recommended daily calorie allowance and output a suitable message depending whether the user is under or has gone over the amount. Can adapt for any type of food.
 - Eggstra Challenge 2: Develop a quiz using Python with an Easter theme
Use the programming challenge support on Classrooms to help!
- 5) **DT:** Choose one of the following:
 - Design a device that will protect a hard-boiled egg when it is dropped from a height
 - Design some packaging for a new Easter egg
 - Design a card game or board game with an Easter theme
 - Make an Easter hat to wear during your Easter celebrations
 - Build an Easter egg/bunny using Lego or other construction toys



The BFS Challenges continued

6) ART/PHOTOGRAPHY:

- Hidden letters – find the hidden letters of the alphabet around your home (like the ones in the picture)
- Make your name out of photos of hidden letters – bonus points for creativity!



7) PE

- Design a new game to help you and your family stay fit
- The game must be playable indoors and not need any equipment that you are not likely to have lying around the house
- Submit the name of your game, how to play and rules

8) MUSIC

- Rewrite the lyrics to a famous song to make it about social isolation due to the Corona virus (you can find the lyrics to most songs online to get you started).
- Bonus points for making it funny!

9) GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY

- Research different Easter traditions from across the world and through history.
- Compile a list of your top 10 favourites (or weirdest).
- Put the list in order with 1 being the strangest.
- Discuss the top 3 with your family - Why might they be different to the way that we celebrate Easter? Would you want to give up how we celebrate Easter to follow a new tradition from another country?
- Challenge: Come up with your own symbol to represent the 10 different Easter traditions from other countries and map these onto a world map

10) RE:

- Research and find out what happened to Jesus on:
 - Palm Sunday
 - Maundy Thursday
 - Good Friday
 - Easter Sunday
- Challenge: Explain why Christians believed Jesus died using these key words: sacrifice, resurrection, incarnation, salvation, atonement.

11) MATHS:

- Research the Golden Ratio or the Fibonacci Sequence - can you make a poster explaining either (or both) of these concepts using diagrams and pictures to help.

12) ALL SUBJECTS – PUN CHALLENGE:

- Make a poster containing as many subject-based puns as you can.
 - E.g. King Henry VIII has six wives but that is just his story (History – geddit?!)
 - E.g. I'm rubbish at decimals because I don't see the point

Wildlife House Project—Year 9

We continue to be delighted and impressed with the quality of wildlife houses designed and produced by students:



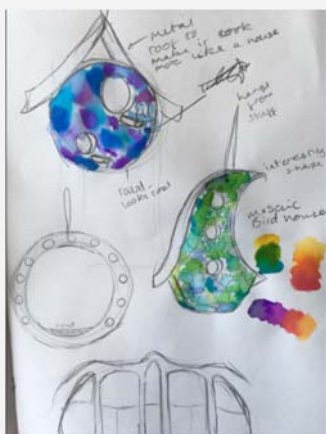
Great modelling from Katie



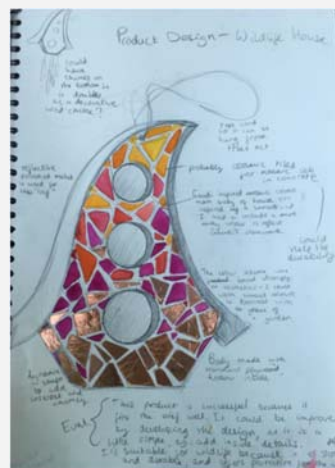
Henry —Inspired by the 6Rs



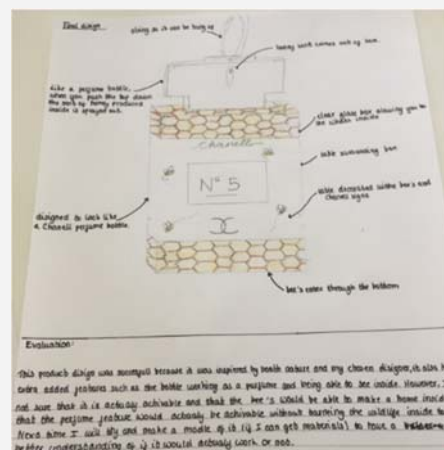
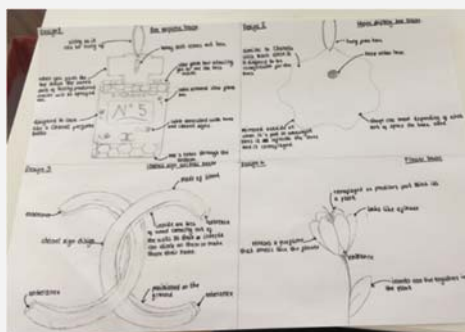
Rory made a wildlife-house over the Easter break, with help from dad.



Anna —Really beautiful design work, inspired by Antoni Gaudi.



Grace —High quality presentation and annotations.



Wildlife House Project—Year 8



Chloe made a second bird house and feeder over the Easter break, with her dad's help.



Jacob made a very fun tipi inspired wildlife house



Dario produced a very original take on a wildlife feeder—his research work was excellent, finding out how scenes were made in the original Star Wars film.



Olivia —just wow!



Wildlife House Project—Year 7



Here is a fantastic wildlife house made by Isabella. We asked students to pick a designer to inspire them with their product. I think we can all see who Isabella was inspired by! Well done Ms Street was wowed by this.



Lucas made a simple and organic bird house—beautiful !



Reuben made a super wildlife house with help from his dad

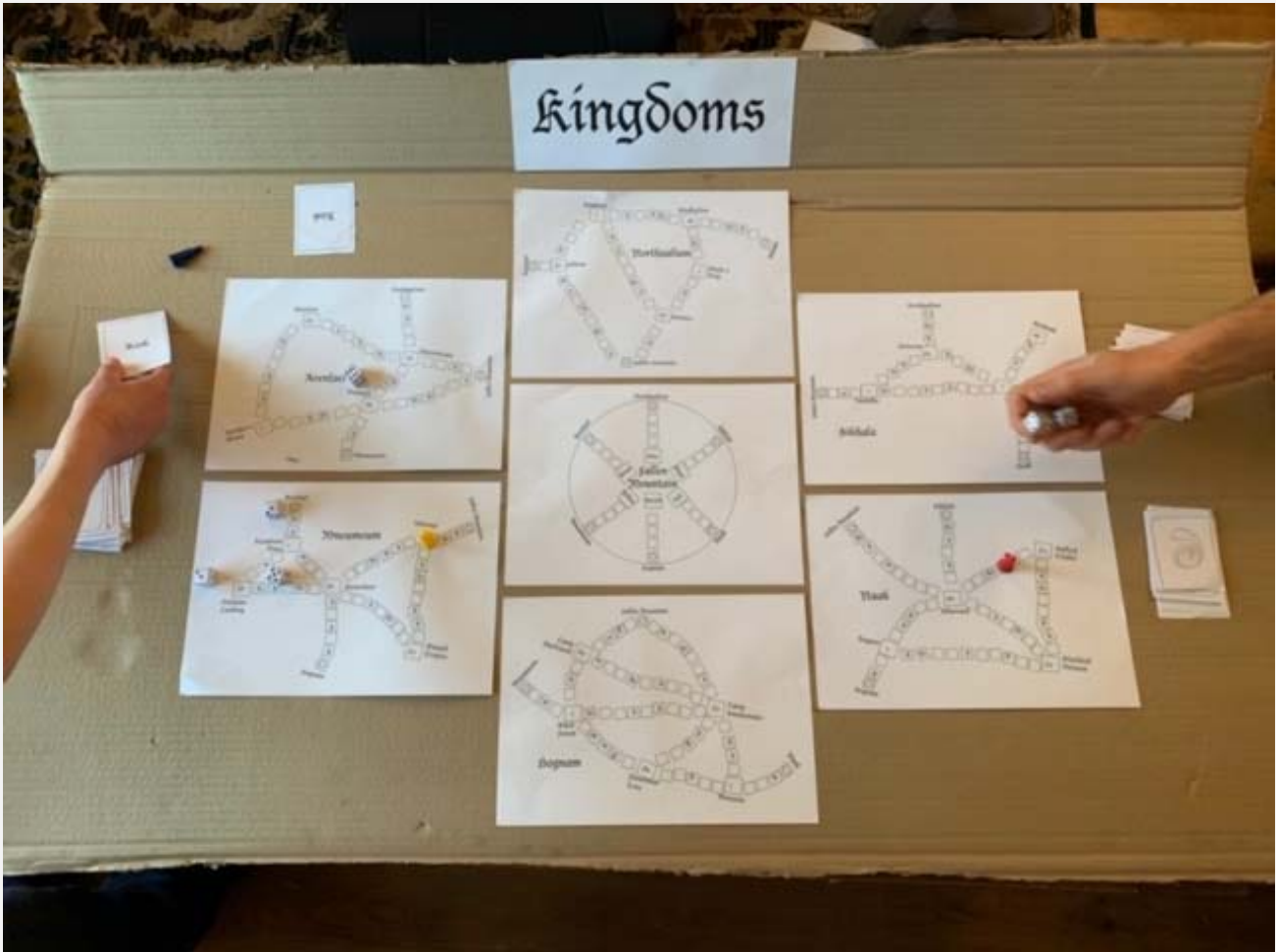


Introducing The Amazing Game of

Kingdoms

Created by Calum Y9

A very big 'Well done' to Calum in Year 9 who has been very creative and used the quarantine period to finally bring his idea for a new board game to life. Calum's game of *KINGDOMS* was inspired by many sources including video games, books and films and has been developing over time (3+ years) to produce an amazing board game which was extensively tested by his family during the Easter break.



The Unbelievably Compact Guide to *Kingdoms*

The objective of *Kingdoms* is to rule the world. But let's start somewhere else. You pick a colour. You then start on the block labelled with that colour. Blue goes first, then clockwise from there. To move, roll two dice and calculate the total. You can move as many blocks as you want *up to* the number you rolled. You may choose not to move at all, and you cannot back-track upon one roll of the dice, so keep moving forward. Once you have reached the block you wish to be on, you can stop. Once you have stopped and completed your actions, your turn is over and the next player takes theirs. If you land on a risk block (marked with 'R'), then you must stop, pick up the risk card at the top of the pile, read out what it says to the other players and then enact whatever situation you find yourself. If all goes well and you are not killed or trapped, you may continue moving to wherever you wish to go. Summoning blocks (marked with 'S') mean nothing if you walk over them, however they can be instantly travelled to using the Apparition spell or Transposition spell. Ritual blocks (marked with 'Ri') can be used to collect spell cards. To do this, you must stop on the block, then you can take one spell card from the top of the pile.

OVERTHROWING HATHMIR

Finally, once you have conquered every settlement, you must return to your starting point on the Fallen Mountain to face Hathmir, the final boss. He is level six, permanently has the 'Enhancement' effect and cannot be affected by potions or spells. Intimidating, I know. Once you have defeated him, you have won the game.

Thinking of a new hobby?

Beetroot Farming ... Is Calming!

An introduction to beets

Have you ever imagined a world where you were a beetroot farmer? If not, I am here to explain the psychological, environmental and monetary benefits of this extraordinary activity. Intrigued? Well, now we'll delve in to the deep dimension of farming your very own beetroot.



How do you beet, bro?

All you really need to grow beetroot: some land/a garden, readily available beetroot seeds, and commitment. Just plant the seeds in the ground and water every day for around 7 to 12 weeks (recommended amount of time said by brand *Thompson and Morgan*). It's really that simple! Just imagine waking to the task of watering your beautiful beets, starting a hard day of work with fresh air in your lungs and the view of a sunrise in your garden. If you are a keen viewer of the US Office, you may recollect that Dwight K Schrute was a beetroot farmer in his spare time, and got a lot of success because of it, maybe, that could be you...

What are those beet benefits?

As I mentioned prior, there are some benefits to beets. In a psychological aspect, farming beets is a brilliant activity because it relaxes the mind; in fact, a study done by the Modern Californian University, the students who farm beetroot are 50% more relaxed than their not-farming-student counterpart. Jenny D'tenney commented "this is an unbelievable result, you couldn't make it up!". Furthermore, it is thought that farming any vegetable (including beetroot) is great for commitment as you form a connection with your produce. It's also great for the environment! Through photosynthesis, the plant will consume carbon dioxide and will emit oxygen for us to breathe. Even better, beetroot farming can be of great monetary value. Firstly, you can sell your ripe beets to locals in your area, charging enough to make profit on the seeds you bought. Secondly, you could sell your ideas of a beetroot shaped character to movie corporations. A lovely example of this is the heart wrenching character of *Mr Beet* from the monumental blockbuster *Kids vs Monsters*.

How do I start my beet adventure?

You should definitely start by plotting the area where you want to put your seeds and then just give it a go. It's not difficult, just do it.

I'm going to drive down beet street!

After all that, now, can you imagine a world in which you are a beet farmer? If yes, you probably know all of the benefits it has to everyday life, from monetary to psychological to environmental. Why wouldn't you start a simple, little beet farm? Try it now, you won't regret a thing!

By James Y8

Creativity opening up possibilities!



It is so pleasing to hear about how many of our students are employing the great spirit of Bristol Free School, even whilst still navigating through these early days towards establishing a pattern to how to work at home effectively.

Plaudits to Isaac M for going about his homework in such a creative and dynamic way. His drama re-enactment of 'Castaway' in his garden, using homemade props showed ingenuity, creativity and a super sense of fun!

Isaac was also invited to be part of an online Meeting called 'Stand up for Labour' to observe stand-up comedians discuss their experiences of being in isolation, and then to listen to Jeremy Corbyn, and was asked to write and present his own speech on behalf of the whole labour party to thank their leader.

It is no surprise that Isaac has aspirations to study politics further and look at a career in this or performing arts in some way.

During school closure why not have a think about how to get creative doing things you enjoy, being in isolation does not have to mean you have to be socially isolate. It may stop some things you love to do for now, but be patient, be kind to others if they are having a wobbly day, and most of all, be open to trying and learning new things. You may find something that opens up all sorts of interesting possibilities for you in the future!