

Words from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Today, students and staff were encouraged to wear red to support the national campaign, *Show Racism the Red Card*. Challenging racism and celebrating diversity is such an important issue for young people and I am proud that today has been prepared and organised by our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team. A particular mention must go to Mya and Stacey for creating and delivering two highly educational assemblies to the whole School about important influential BAME historical figures.

I was delighted that the Year 8 remote parents evening was so successful last night and in the main technology did not let us down! However, if you did experience any issues please email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk and we will organise a way subject teachers can give you some feedback about your child in Year 8. I envisage with the escalating number of COVID cases in Bristol and the country at large, we will use this parents evening app a number of times during the winter.

For some students who are currently self-isolating we have moved into phase 3, the blended learning phase. BFS teachers have received their initial training on Microsoft Teams and we are now able to follow your child's timetable if they are required to stay home to self-isolate. The main principles are as follows:

- On the second day of self-isolation, lessons are scheduled by your child's subject teacher on Teams. Your child will need to log in to see an invite to their lesson on their calendar.
- In most cases the teacher will be teaching the class in school and will share their screen, display resources and answer student questions that are posted by your child on the chat function.
- Students can submit work or photos of work to their subject teacher using Teams during the lesson or afterwards.
- Teachers can provide feedback on a student's work using Teams.

Obviously, this is a completely new way of working for students and staff so there will be a learning period for everyone. We ask you to bear with us during this transition period. I am very grateful to staff for their adaptability and energy. Our INSET day next Friday will be a well-timed opportunity to share practice and learning points. We would welcome any feedback sent by email to the school.

I would like to welcome Anne-Marie Boyle, who became our new Chair of Governors in September, and refer you to her introduction in this newsletter. I would like to say a big thank you to Karen Foster for her many years of service as Chair of Governors and her support to me personally when I started at BFS. Karen's vision, determination and energy is one of the major reasons BFS exists as a School today.

Finally, next week we are sending out a whole School survey to seek your views on how well the School is doing and to ask for feedback and suggestions. The results of this survey will be considered in the December full governing body meeting. We would really appreciate parents and carers completing the survey.

I wish you a happy weekend and please stay safe.

Mrs S King, Headteacher



ARKWRIGHT
ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS
part of The Smallpeice Trust

Huge congratulations to Emma (12TG2) who has passed the Arkwright engineering selection process and has been selected to become an Arkwright Engineering Scholar. It is great testament to Emma that she managed to achieve this and that her engineering and leadership potential has been recognised at an early stage. An Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship of its type in the UK to inspire and nurture school-age students to be the country's future leaders of the Engineering Profession. The Scholarships are awarded to high-calibre 16-year-old students through a rigorous selection process and support students through the two years of their A levels or equivalent qualifications.



Today we showed our support for 'Show Racism the Red Card' and turned the School red. It was so wonderful to see students across the School get behind this brilliant charity to stamp out racism.

If you have not yet donated, there is still time to do so via ParentPay. We will update everybody with our final fundraising total next week.

Mr Walker, Assistant Headteacher



Amazon Web Service App Competition Semi-Final



Earlier this week, 5 of our Year 9 students took part in the postponed AWS GetIT App Competition semi-final. Kate, Katie, Aila, Holly and Ella should have gone to the ExCel Centre in April to present at the Amazon Annual Conference so delivering their presentation remotely in CG15 wasn't quite the same experience as a day in London!

However, the Team delivered their content confidently and articulately to the Director of AWS and other judges and answered questions with excellent knowledge, understanding and capability of hardware. Unfortunately, the team have not made it through to the Grand Final but they received some wonderful feedback which they can build on.

You are winners to us as not only have you amazed us with your ideas, teamwork and presentation skills, you have dealt with all the unknowns relating to the competition, showing so much resilience and maturity throughout.

We are proud of every single student who took part in the competition this year - it was so wonderful to be involved and to see the students flourish and work so well together.

This year's competition has been launched to Year 8 students and Mrs Sherman is looking forward to working with them alongside the Year 9 alumni as mentors.

Mrs Corinne Sherman, Head of Computer Science and DT

New Chair of Governors



I was really pleased to accept the RET's request to become the new Chair of Governors at BFS. I have been a Chair of Governors at a local primary school and a school governor for over 8 years. I am looking forward to working with Mrs King and the Senior Leadership Team.

A big thank you to our out-going Chair – Karen Foster – who has devoted so much time and energy to the position over the past 9 years.

Anne-Marie Boyle



The current pandemic won't stop us making music! We have two exciting musical opportunities coming up soon taking place online.

Virtual Live Lounge

This will be a virtual concert of performances from BFS students, broadcast live on YouTube on Thursday 22 October at 7:00pm. Anyone can take part in any year group! If you would like to join in, all you need to do is send in a video of you performing music of some kind. You may be singing, playing an instrument. No matter how simple or short the piece, all are welcome. Send a video to d.pate@bristolfreeschool.org.uk before the 19 October. Then go to the music department YouTube channel on Thursday 22 October at 7:00pm to watch it live - <https://www.youtube.com/user/MrPateChannel>



Dynamics Choir Online

Do you like singing? Our amazing school choir group 'Dynamics' is going online, and we want YOU to join in! We'll be singing lots of fun songs in harmony in lots of different styles. Connect from home using Microsoft Teams on a phone, tablet or computer – others won't be able to hear you so you can sing along as loud as you like! There will be an option to take part in exciting virtual performances as well as (hopefully) in person rehearsals, performances and trips later in the year. If you would like to take part, click on the following link to sign up and we'll send out more information next term about how to join in. <http://bit.ly/bfsonlinechoir>

Cleaning at Bristol Free School

A big THANK YOU to our lovely cleaners, Emma and Rachel who diligently clean the regular touch points throughout the School day, every day of the School week. They do a fantastic job and do it with such grace and humour.



A reminder to students of the importance of wearing masks when in communal areas, in shops and on public transport to keep everyone safe.

Please keep safe and protect our local community by following government guidelines.

Key Dates	
Monday 19 October	Folly Farm - A Level Field Day Trip
Tuesday 20 October	Folly Farm - A Level Field Day Trip
	Catch Up Year 8 Subject Evening - REMOTE EVENT
	Year 12 Meet the Tutor - REMOTE EVENT
Friday 23 October	INSET DAY (Cross Trust) - SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS
Monday 26 October - Friday 30 October	HALF TERM
Monday 2 November	Day 1 of Term 2 - School reopens to students
Monday 2 - Friday 6 November	Year 13 Mock Exams
Monday 9 - Friday 13 November	GCSE Autumn Series
Thursday 12 November	Sixth Form Open Evening - Virtual Event
Friday 13 November	Sixth Former for a Day
Monday 23 - Friday 27 November	Year 11 Mock Exams

Careers at BFS

We educate students about Careers throughout their journey at BFS to support them in making informed career choices. We implement the majority of our careers education through our PSHE curriculum, which allows more dedicated teaching time for this hugely important aspect of our curriculum. Every year group has a dedicated term of career lessons covering the following themes:

- **Year 7- Introduction to the World of Work** - students will explore the different sectors of career pathways and learn about different job roles. **Delivery= Term 6**
- **Year 8- Employability and Entrepreneurial Skills** - students will learn about the key employability skills and will reflect on their importance and how they can improve their own skills. **Delivery= Term 4**
- **Year 9- Careers and GCSE options** - students will learn about how their GCSE options can be linked to different career pathways. They will also be supported about their GCSE options. **Delivery= Term 3**
- **Year 10-World of Work** - students will learn about the world of work by exploring different job sectors and learning about the applications into the world of work such as cv writing. **Delivery= Term 6**
- **Year 11- Post 16 options and apprenticeships** - students will learn about the different Post 16 pathway options and apprenticeships. They will also be supported in their Post 16 options. **Delivery= Term 2**

Please see our Careers information page on the BFS website: <https://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/careers-info.php>



Many events will be virtual and we will provide them through Class Charts, email and the newsletter.

UK University & Apprenticeship Search virtual fair – Wednesday 21 October (12noon – 6:00pm)

Free of charge, and it's a fun and easy way to explore over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers. For more information and to sign up for the event- <https://ukunisearch-west.vfairs.com/>

Burges Salmon Apprenticeship Virtual Open Evening – Tuesday 3 November at 5:30pm

- Burges Salmon will be holding an event to publicise their legal apprenticeship. They are recruiting students due to finish their A-levels this academic year, but may be helpful to students thinking about A-level choices, or if interested in a career in the legal profession.

For more information and to sign up go to <https://www.burges-salmon.com/careers/apprenticeships/legal-apprenticeship/legal-apprenticeship-open-evening/>

Year 11 Mock Exams

Monday 23—Friday 27 November 2020

It is anticipated that examinations, in some form, will be going ahead next summer. It is important therefore that Year 11 prepare as fully as possible for forthcoming mock exams.

Mocks will take place in the week beginning 23 November and under formal conditions. Students will not sit every paper per subject, but will do so in the second round of examinations, in March. We will use the grades from November papers to calculate a current working grade.

During tutor sessions next week and in the weeks following half-term, Year 11 will work through some study and revision skills with guidance in constructing a revision timetable. Students can also take their exercise books home from now until the end of the mock examination period.

It is very important revise properly and constructively.

You can support your children by helping with the following:

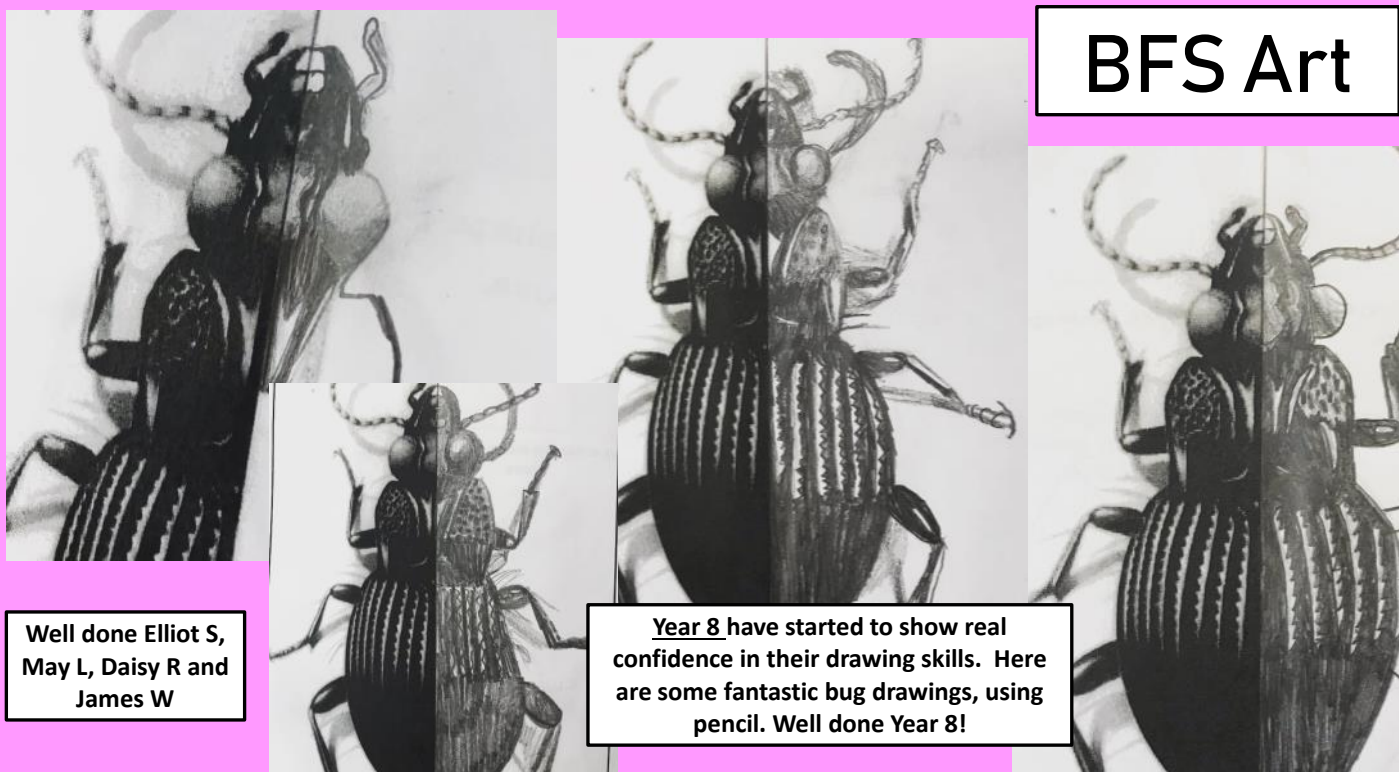
- Ensure they have a quiet space to revise, ideally with a desk
- Support them with structuring their time and in managing breaks to refocus learning
- Minimise distractions – help them manage their screen time (phones, social media, games consoles etc)
- Support with revision structure – feel free to test them on their notes!
- Keep them fed and watered! Provide favourite snacks/drinks
- Praise them when they stick to their revision plan
- Support with deadlines
- Be flexible and sensitive to pressure
- Check-in regularly

We will shortly be updating our website with useful and relevant support with mock and summer examinations.

Lastly, I would like to wish them all the very best of luck. They are a fantastic year group and I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know each and every one of them.

Mr MacBlain, Head of Year 11

BFS Art



Well done Elliot S,
May L, Daisy R and
James W

Year 8 have started to show real confidence in their drawing skills. Here are some fantastic bug drawings, using pencil. Well done Year 8!

BFS GCSE Art



Year 10 Art
Here are some cracking examples of colour drawing. Year 10 demonstrating their colour blending skills. This was part of a 2 hour lesson. Drawing in silence. Beautiful!





A Level Art



Well done Salman Year 13. Stepping out of his comfort zone and exploring more creative portraiture. Fantastic work.



HM Government

NHS



**I wear this to
protect you.**

**Please wear yours
to protect me.**

Face coverings help keep
us safe on public transport.

**STAY ALERT
CONTROL
THE VIRUS
SAVE LIVES**