

Words from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope this first newsletter of Term 2 finds you well and adjusting to a second national lockdown. I totally support the government's decision to keep schools open. In times of uncertainty and anxiety it is so important for young people to have some normality and routine in their lives.

We are continuing to work to the latest government guidelines and strongly enforce the HANDS FACE SPACE strategy throughout the school day. This term, we have invested in a very large marquee to double the capacity of our dining facilities and offer additional outdoor dry space in social times. Face coverings are now compulsory in the school buildings, dining hall and any indoor communal spaces. This week, as students adapt, we have needed to hand out a lot of disposable face masks to those who have forgotten to bring theirs. We must reduce this next week, due to the impact on the environment. I kindly ask parents to ensure students come to school with a re-useable face covering every day, including the days students wear PE kit.

Overall, we have been delighted with the way students have cooperated with the many changes we have made to keep our school COVID secure. It has been a pleasure to welcome them back after half term.

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding lockdown and schools transition levels, I think it is prudent to test the IT capacity between the school and home: We will test Microsoft Teams live lessons with students accessing them from home across all year groups on Thursday 12 November. This one lesson test will ensure students can access live lessons and learning resources should they need to self-isolate. We can adjust quickly to any changes so students are able to access their education.

Mr Fernandes will write to explain what students will do in this home learning test and the time their year group will need to arrive in school afterwards. It is important we still stagger the later arrival to school. Please read the letter carefully for the details of the IT test.

Next week we will be commemorating Remembrance Day on Wednesday 11 November with a remote Remembrance assembly and a 2 minute silence at 11:00am. We will not be selling poppies this year so have included the link for the British Legion. Children in Need will be supported this year through a mufti day and a themed tutor programme. These events will enable our young people to reflect and be grateful for the opportunities they have despite the current pandemic.

Year 13 completed their mock exams this week and were excellent role models to our younger students. Year 11 mock exams will commence on Monday 23 November, so Year 11 should be revising hard in their free time. This week's newsletter has some important road safety information for students who cycle or scoot to school. I do not want there to be any more road accidents, particularly as the daylight hours are reducing.

Finally, thank you to all parents and carers who completed our parental survey last term. We were delighted with the number of returns and will be sharing the results and ways we intend to act on your constructive feedback before Term 3.

I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter and you manage to stay positive in this very challenging time.

Mrs S King, Headteacher



Reminder! Important Student Notice

Face coverings **must** be worn by everyone at school, when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, in corridors and communal areas. Please **ensure** your child has at least **two cloth face coverings** with them before they leave for school every day. They seem to forget, particularly on PE days.

The School has been providing face masks this week, as we understand it is a new measure and people can forget, but we have got through a staggering 500 masks in just three days. As well as being extremely expensive and not a good use of school funds, this is also terrible for the environment.

Please make sure your child has at least two cloth face coverings with them every day, to protect people around them and the environment.

Thank you.



Please follow this link below, for further information on the UK government's new guidance in schools and the importance of children wearing a face mask.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/education-53919766>

Time for Road Safety

As we start the new term and the days gets darker earlier, it is important to remind students about travelling safely. We want to remind parents about the importance of keeping your children safe when travelling to and from school. We have received reports from the public of dangerous and inconsiderate behaviour. Please talk to your children about keeping themselves safe while they travel with the safety reminders below:

- Always use designated road crossings on busy roads
- Avoid crossing the road at busy junctions
- Walk with local friends in your year group (avoid mixing year group bubbles)
- **Avoid distractions.** Do not use mobile phones or wear earphones when crossing roads
- If using scooters, please be **mindful** of other pavement users
- If cycling, always wear a helmet and make sure you have working lights, signal clearly at all times and ride in a position where you can see and be seen at all times



Key Dates

Monday 9 - Friday 13 November	GCSE Autumn Series
Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance Day
Thursday 12 November	MS Teams Home Trial Lesson Sixth Form Open Evening - Virtual Event
Friday 13 November	Children In Need Day— MUFTI DAY
Wednesday 18 November	Year 11 GCSE Drama Practical Exam
Thursday 19 November	Year 9 Subject Evening - Virtual Event
Monday 23 - Friday 27 November	Year 11 Mock Exams
Tuesday 15 December	Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Results Day
Wednesday 16 December	Sixth Former for a Day

Remembrance Day—Wednesday 11 November

We will be marking Remembrance Day with a 2 minute silence at 11:00am. and an online playing of the Last Post. Students will be considering the work of Ernest Brooks and the impact his work and life had on the world of journalism and photography. He was influential in capturing the horrors of war, taking over 5 000 images during World War 1, many of which are still used today. Controversially he was accused of 'staging' pictures, some say as an early form of propaganda. Newspapers loved these images and published many of them to illustrate the horrors of war. Eventually the media was banned from using his images in publications. We will continue this theme next week along with our virtual Remembrance Assembly.

We would like to raise money for the The Royal British Legion. As we will not be selling poppies this year, we invite you to make an online donation via <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate>

In Bristol, Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph has been cancelled. People are urged not to travel into the city centre on Sunday, 8 November. Instead, the council will stage the formal Act of Remembrance at HMS Flying Fox, which will be broadcasted on the council's Facebook page at 11:00am, so people can take part in the safety of their own homes.



Children in Need



Come as Yourself



For BBC Children in Need

As you may already know, Monday 9 November 2020 is the start of this year's BBC Children in Need Appeal Week. We will be supporting Children in Need this year with 'Come as Yourself Day' on **Friday 13 November**. Students are not required to wear school uniform and may wear their own clothes. Clothing should be appropriate for a day at school

This year we are requesting online donations via Parent Pay.

Together we can support thousands of children and young people during this difficult time.

BFS Music

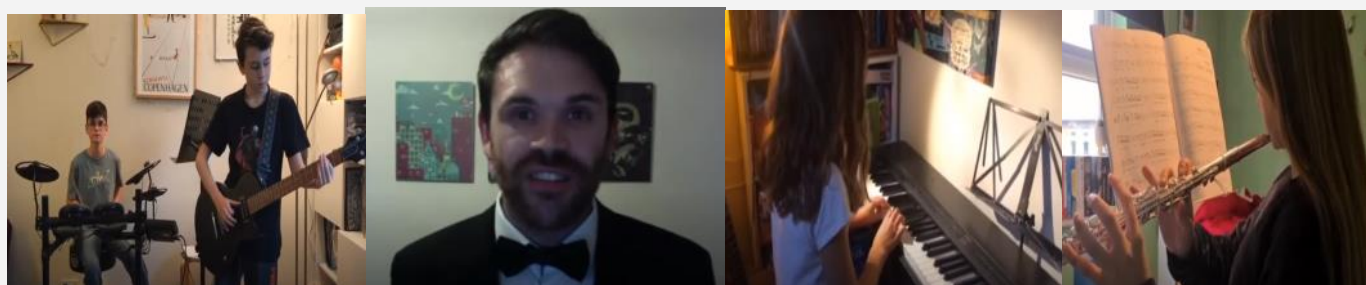


Virtual Live Lounge



On Thursday 22 October the Music department celebrated the end of our first term with a virtual concert streamed live on the internet.

Students from all year groups took part - it was amazing to see the talent on display from the many fantastic musicians at BFS. You can watch the concert back here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VM5CGh6gsLg&t=930s>



Bristol Plays Music – Music Tuition

We are excited to be making preparations to start running peripatetic music lessons during the school day in the near future. Initially these will take place virtually, so students will have their lesson in a music practice room while connecting to their instrumental or vocal teacher using video conferencing. We will look to resume face to face lessons as soon as it is safe to do so. Parents and carers can sign up for tuition on any instrument or voice using the following link: <https://live.paritor.com/Home/Index/b89407e2-e0f1-437e-8edd-8a4f34812301>



Once you click the link and **'Enrol for an Activity'** parents will need to select **'School Direct Tuition'** and search for **Bristol Free School** which will then bring up the instrumental options for the school. Attached is a How-To guide for parents should they need any help through the system.

Please note that due to capacity issues, lessons in school will be limited to start with, so we do encourage wherever possible that these virtual lessons take place at home, after school. There will be very strict controls around the arrangements for peripatetic lessons including parents and students signing up to a Covid code of conduct.



Careers at Bristol Free School

Apprenticeship information:



There are number of apprenticeship opportunities in Bristol and the local area, which we will promote to students and parents through means such as tutorial sessions, virtual employer talks and the newsletter.

It is a dynamic changing job market, which provides great opportunities for our young people. In these difficult times, unfortunately there might not be as many apprenticeship opportunities, however a number of businesses have still committed to offer apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships are a way of gaining work experience whilst also achieving qualifications. During an apprenticeship, a student would work for a company but also go to college/university to study a related subject.

**ASK
ABOUT
APPRENTICESHIPS**



For More Infor- mation:

Please see a really
useful guide to
apprenticeships:

[https://
assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/
uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/
file/787717/Guide-to-Apprenticeships-260219-
LR.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/787717/Guide-to-Apprenticeships-260219-LR.pdf)

We also recommend the following websites (links are also on the school website)

Career pilot- <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

National Careers- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Not going to Uni- <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

Unifrog- www.unifrog.org

Scholarship Success By Emma



Earlier this month I was excited to find out that I'd been awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. This is a national scheme to encourage students with an interest in engineering during their age 16 – 18 studies, and last year was the first time that BFS entered students for it. Applicants have to be in Year 11, planning to take Maths at A level and considering a career in engineering.

The first step is to fill in an application form, which gets marked. This was good experience and made me think about what I might want to do in the future. An important part of the application is having a design/ engineering project to talk about, so it really helped that I was doing DT for GCSE and could use my coursework for this.

Then in February there was a two hour aptitude exam. The paper sets out different problem situations for which you have to come up with possible solutions. Rather than a lot of writing, the idea is to use labelled diagrams to set out your design/engineering solutions.

Once the application form and exam had been marked, I was really pleased to hear that I had got through to the next stage – a day at Bristol University in the Easter holidays with other applicants, seeing its Engineering Department, carrying out team engineering challenges and a 20 minute interview to talk about my project and career plans. However this was unfortunately cancelled this year due to Coronavirus.

As part of an Arkwright Scholarship you get a mentor, opportunities for work experience and money to help with your engineering-related studies as well as money for the school to spend on STEM. I am not quite sure what will happen this year due to Coronavirus but hopefully there will still be some online events and opportunities until "in person" ones can start again. I am grateful that BFS gave me the chance to apply for this and I would definitely encourage any Year 11 students who might be interested to give it a go.

BFS SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING

12 November from 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Join us for our Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening on Thursday 12 November from 6:30pm.

Join us at www.bfs6thform.org.uk and hear from the Headteacher, Mrs King, the Head of Sixth Form, subject teachers and students to find out what makes BFS the best Sixth Form in Bristol. If you have any questions prior to our virtual event, please get in touch.



You are invited to our
**Bristol Free School Sixth Form
Virtual Open Evening**

12th November 2020
from 6.30pm

Join us on our website
www.bfs6thform.org.uk

**SIXTH FORM BRISTOL
FREE SCHOOL**

Job Vacancy

We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of English.

If interested, check out the details via the link below:

<https://www.eteach.com/job/teacher-of-english-1120272?lang=en-GB&frmsrh=Y>

Deadline for applications is 9:00am on 13 November 2020.

BFS Science

Science Trip to Folly Farm

Before the half term break, the Year 13 Biologists and BTEC Applied Science students went on a very Autumnal field trip to Folly Farm. Day one was spent pond dipping, finding a wide range of invertebrates and some rare endangered Great Crested Newts! Using different sampling techniques and then identifying the indicator species using a digital microscope, we were able to ascertain the health and diversity of the ecosystem.

The afternoon was filled with using a sweep netting technique to capture insect species in the grassland and modelling 'capture-mark-recapture' techniques on a woodland full of conkers. The groups became very competitive, proclaiming "we came, we saw, we conkered"!

Day two saw some very inclement weather at times, but we started the day with a beautiful nature walk through the woods to see the resident Exmoor ponies (all named after different cheeses!) The Avon Wildlife Trust staff explained to us the benefit of nature on wellness and mental health. We all used this time to practise mindfulness in nature and even tried out some tree hugging. This was a real highlight for some staff and students! We braved the rain and wind to sample the managed meadow and livestock fields, finally pooling our results and our calculations of biodiversity along with some great presentations of our time at Folly Farm.





Fred the Beaver and Bebras Computational Thinking Competition 2020

KS3 students and KS4/KS5 Computer Science students spend the first two weeks of November each year taking part in the Bebras Computational Thinking competition, which introduces computational thinking to students and is hosted by the University of Oxford. You can see students in 9TG3 taking part below!

The focus is on problem solving and logical thinking, which form the foundations of the computer science curriculum across the key stages. Students have 40 minutes to complete a series of challenges that increase in difficulty and for the first time ever, students can participate at home if they are self-isolating (your Computer Science teacher will set the details on ClassCharts).

Why not give it a go? Get involved with the at home challenge for families: Our students are in the midst of preparation and some have already taken part. Ask your child to show you the previous challenges to see how logical you are! Go to <http://www.bebbras.uk/prepare.html> and select Sample Questions and Past Challenges.



BFS Art

A big well done to all students that have made an excellent start to their art studies for this academic year. They have all embraced the new “normal” and have really strived to excel despite all the challenges that we continue to face.



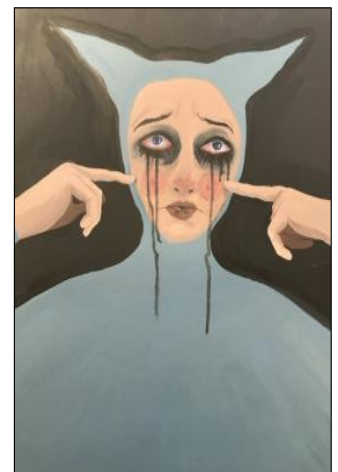
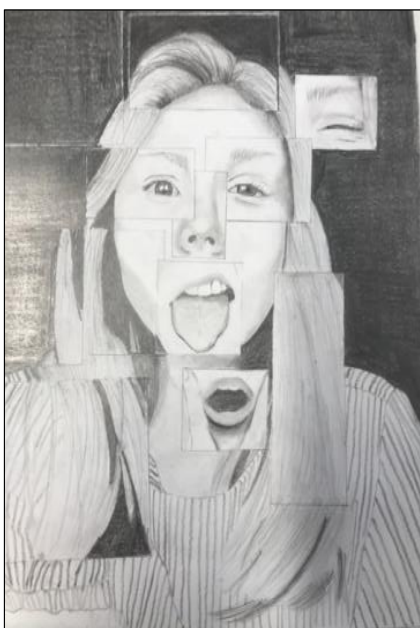
Amazing homework from Year 9 students.

They were given the task of creating a piece of Graffiti style art, that visually expressed their thoughts on current world events. Impressive stuff!



Some recent work from Year 11

These GCSE students spent 5 hours producing final outcomes for their GCSE projects. Fantastic work! Well done Year 11.



BFS Art

Year 10s have been busy creating beautiful colour studies!



Beautiful colour studies from Year 10.

Well done Ruby for displaying amazing progression in one lesson, by demonstrating such refined skills in her observational drawing.

