

Words from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carers and Students

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and staying positive in this second national lockdown. Here at BFS we are working very hard to keep school life as normal as possible so young people are not impacted. We have been fortunate that our school community has had relatively few positive cases this term and the majority of students have attended school as usual.

I would like to thank families for their support last Thursday when we practised the use of Teams with all year groups. The practice was extremely successful with over 95% of students logging onto Teams successfully and receiving one live lesson. BFS teachers also found the experience very useful and it gave them an opportunity to practise a new approach to teaching using Teams. We were very pleased with the trial, but do hope we never need to use it on such a large scale again!

The most common teaching scenario at present is when most students are in school attending their lessons with a small number of students joining through Teams because they are self-isolating. Teachers will pre-populate the virtual classroom in advance of the lesson then teach and manage the class in their classroom alongside checking in on students at home to provide support. I ask students and parents/carers to be understanding as staff organise these blended lessons. I want to thank the staff at BFS who are doing an amazing job learning so many new skills and adapting to these extra challenges.

The government have made face coverings mandatory in schools in busy communal areas. For BFS this is in corridors, the Sixth Form common room and when queuing in the dining hall. We will be strengthening the consequences for non-compliance with face coverings next week as it is a necessary part of our COVID secure risk assessment. Student have had a number of weeks to adjust to this expectation. We need ALL students to come to school with a re-useable face covering as from Monday. **School will now be charging £1.00 per disposable mask issued, as the current situation is not sustainable environmentally or financially. Coming to school with a face covering and wearing it in all communal areas is now non-negotiable. This applies to all students, except for those with a BFS exemption card, which will require the completion of an exemption form.** I thank you in advance for your support.

Thank you to all Year 9 parents who attended the remote Subject Evening yesterday. It was a very positive and well attended evening.

Year 11 have just started their mock exams and will be involved in a full week of mocks next week. We wish them the very best and hope they learn a lot from their first experience of formal exams.

This week in tutor time we have been revisiting the importance of our anti-bullying culture in school. We have reinforced the message that there is no place for bullying at BFS and we all need to speak up when we see it. All staff will deal with any bullying report seriously and students need to trust the school to act in the best interests of all our community.

For students interested in learning more about BFS Sixth Form, I encourage you to visit the virtual Sixth Form open event on our website <https://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/index.php>. We welcome applications for the 2021 intake from our Year 11 students.

Finally, I would like to say how much staff have appreciated the large number of thank you cards and messages we have received this term. In these uncertain times these tokens of gratitude are very important.

Wishing you the best of health.

Mrs S King
Headteacher

Key Diary Dates

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
Friday 18 December	Final Day of Term— School closes at 12:30pm

Important COVID Updates!



Face Mask Exemption—Reminder



If your child is unable to wear a face covering then please complete a 'Face Mask Exemption Form' and return it to admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk or hand the completed

form in at Student Services.

Please request a form from admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk



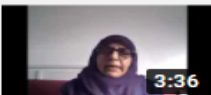
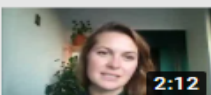
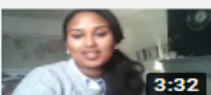

Lockdown Video Messages for Communities

Bristol City Council has released new Covid video messages translated into Polish, Punjabi, Somali, Bengali, Urdu and Arabic. Including information on government guidance, the importance to sticking to the rules and information on where to find support.



Please follow the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzBMJEVI_oKmf_QCT-_bBRjo_6FYZt7If

1		COVID-19 November lockdown: A message to our Bengali speaking communities Bristol City Council
2		COVID-19 November lockdown: A message to our Punjabi speaking communities Bristol City Council
3		COVID-19 November lockdown: A message to our Urdu speaking communities Bristol City Council
4		COVID-19 November lockdown: A message to our Polish speaking communities Bristol City Council
5		COVID-19 November lockdown: A message to our Somali speaking communities Bristol City Council
6		COVID-19 November lockdown: A message to our Arabic speaking communities Bristol City Council

★ Anti-Bullying Week 2020, 16-20 November

This year's theme is: **United Against Bullying**

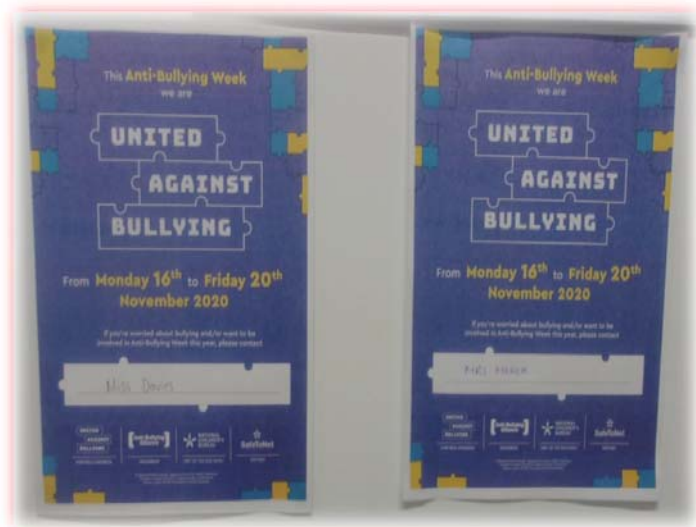


We held a special assembly for Anti-Bullying week looking at how we can stand up to bullies and support each other in our community. In tutor time students have been involved in discussion to look at what we can do to reduce and protect ourselves from online bullying and how choosing kindness by supporting others can be a tool to help us cope.



This week's VoteForSchool's topic has been, **"Is it important to fit in at school?"**. Our students have been thinking critically about their place in the school community and how this links to their identity as an individual. These lessons have given students the opportunity to explore what it means to fit in as well as understand the causes of bullying in schools. **We are all united against bullying.**

Bristol Free School is **committed** to providing a caring and friendly environment for all students so they can learn in a safe and secure school. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all students are able to share information and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. BFS has many posters around the school reminding the students of who they can talk to about **any** concerns or problems.



As you know, Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it, and for parents and carers, it is natural to worry about children being bullied. We encourage regular conversations with your children about what is and what is not acceptable behaviour.



★ Additional Support for Parents and Carers

All the organisations listed below provide support and information to parents and carers.



⇒ Family Lives

Runs a free and confidential 24-hour helpline for parents. Call 0808 800 222 to speak about any parenting issue, including bullying

⇒ Bullying UK

The bullying UK website, which is part of Family Lives, has a dedicated area for parents <https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/>



⇒ Kidscape

Kidscape is an anti-bullying charity that runs assertiveness training courses for young people who've been bullied. There's extensive information for parents and carers on its website. <https://www.kidscape.org.uk/>

⇒ NSPCC

The NSPCC website has information for parents on bullying and cyberbullying. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

⇒ Childnet International

Childnet international is a charity promoting the safe use of the internet by children. Its website has a wealth of detail including information about bullying for parents and carers. <https://www.childnet.com/>

⇒ Anti-Bullying Alliance

You can access free antibullying online information tools at www.antibullyingalliance.org.uk/parenttool

⇒ Sky Academy Studios

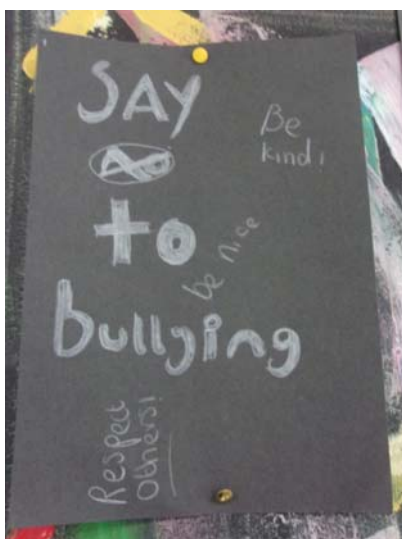
<https://www.skyacademystudios.com/documents/uab/parents-resource-v2.pdf>





Anti-Bullying Week 2020, 16-20 November

Our students have been sharing their thoughts about Anti-Bullying. As you know, bullying can have a devastating impact on those who experience it, but by bringing our collective efforts together, we can reduce it. KS3 Artists have been creating some wonderful work inspired by Keith Haring and his temporary chalk drawing graffiti. To raise awareness of Anti-Bullying and to spread positivity across the corridors, students created these posters using white pencil on black paper. **Together we are united against bullying.**





DON'T STAND BY, STAND UP!

Unite against bullying

**LET'S CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY
A BULLY-FREE ZONE**

Remote Learning Practice



We want to thank students and parents for last Thursday's whole school trial of our remote learning using Microsoft Teams. Most students were able to access without issue and from a technical view the school network coped with the large number of lessons taking place simultaneously.

Over the coming weeks we will be spending time with students to provide them with more experience of using MS Teams. We will also be carrying out further training with staff to develop their ability to use more of the functionality found within this software.

Please support your child with accessing Teams and if possible keep a record of their login details so that when it is required they can login without difficulty.



Thinking about studying a BTEC level 3 at BFS Sixth Form?



Check out the new BTEC Works options tool using the link below, where you can find out:

- Key subject information
- Key skills you will develop
- Career options
- Stories from BTEC students and employers in our local area!

Please follow the link here: <https://btecworks.com/teacher/courses/j7580p>

If you have any questions or you require further information about the BTEC programmes on offer at BFS Sixth Form then please contact Mrs Morgan s.morgan@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

Road Safety Week 16–22 November

Road Safety Awareness week is an important week, as it marks the Brake Charity Road Awareness week 2020. There is one crucial message which we hope everyone will take from this week:

There is no need to speed.

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



Trials Success!



We celebrate the exceptional individual success by one of our Year 7 students, Imogen. Imogen recently attended two trials for the county (for Gloucestershire) in both cricket and football. Imogen did brilliantly well and was also playing with girls who were older than her in the trials.

Imogen was successful in both of her trials and was accepted into the performance squad for both sports. In cricket, Imogen played for the county last year. In football she trialled last year but wasn't successful and was determined to try again. She started training with the squad two weeks ago and this week was told she has been selected to attend a high performance centre at Bristol City Women's Team alongside the county programme.

This is such an excellent achievement Imogen. **We are all very proud of you at BFS!**

REPRESENTING GB!



Jaden, Year 11, has been representing GB by competing in the UTS (United Through Sport) World Virtual Youth Festival, over the last month.

Jaden came 2nd in his division (Max Fit Boys -16yrs) and has now qualified to go into the finals which are being held virtually in Bangkok on 20th-22nd November.

We wish him the best of luck in this!





NW24 Online Safety Conference —20 November 2020

“Positive online communication”



Bristol Free School was proud to be invited to take part in the NW24 Online Safety Virtual Conference as a keynote speaker which took place today. The conference, aimed at Year 5 students from north west Bristol focused on staying safe online, trusted adults and the transition between primary and secondary school.

Year 7 students contributed via pre-recorded video and 3 videos were shown to the participants with top tips for staying safe -

thank very much to Ben, Shiloh and Adran! Fantastic advice and creativity demonstrated in the videos - "Be e-safe; Be e-cool; don't be an e-dinosaur!"

Mrs Sherman introduced eight Year 8 BFS students who then hosted a 45-minute session with a wonderfully engaging and fact filled talk about the vast topic of social media and staying safe online. Year 5 students from the participating schools then asked a wide range of questions, some of which were very thought provoking. BFS students all answered thoroughly, imparting their fantastic wisdom, advice and experience. The most important pieces of advice they shared was to be yourself online, be kind online and to ensure you have the permission of parents/guardians before you sign up to any social media platforms.



I am so proud of all the students who took part - Olive , Sophia , Alex , Izabella, Leon, Tiffany, Alesaya and Maya. All spoke eloquently, were articulate and clear in the advice provided.

They are fantastic ambassadors for Bristol Free School. Well done!!



Y11 GCSE Mock Exams

Thursday 19 — Friday 27 November

We're wishing all our GCSE students good luck with their mock exams taking place this week and next. We know this is a difficult time, so if you do have any questions please contact Mr Fernandes, your tutor or year leader. We are here to support you.

You can find the mock exam timetable on page 12.

Do not bring....



Mobile phones, MP3/4 players, smartwatches



Non-clear bottles, bottles with labels, drinks other than water



Notes (unless allowed)



Food



Tipp-Ex and gel pens

These items must be left in bags or handed in to invigilators. If they are found during the exam, you could be disqualified!

Do bring....



Clear pencil case (or small plastic bag)



Black pens (not gel pens)



Maths/drawing equipment



Calculator if allowed



Clear bottle of water with label removed



Green pen (students with extra time)



Arrival time

Morning exams start at 9am
Afternoon exams start at 1.30 pm

Morning Exams

- You should arrive at school for **8.45am**
- Go straight to your tutor room to register. Check you have all equipment required
- Make a note of your seat in the exam hall.
- Your tutor will escort you down to the marquee

Afternoon Exams

- At 1.20pm you should check the seating plan (marquee) and organise your equipment
- Line up in your row ready to start your exam.



Y11 Mock 1 Timetable - November 2020

Day	DATE	AM/ PM	Exam start time	Option block	SUBJECT	DURATION
Thursday 19 November						
Thursday	19-Nov	AM	9:00am		English Language Paper 1	1h 45m
Friday 20 November						
Friday	20-Nov	PM	1:30pm		Maths Paper 1	1h 30m
Monday 23 November						
Monday	23-Nov	AM	9.00am		English Language Paper 2	2h 5m
Monday	23-Nov	PM	1.30pm	OPTION A	DT	2h
					Geography	1h
					History	1h 15m
					PE	1h 15m
					Religious Studies	1h 45m
					Spanish (Writing)	1h 10m (F), 1h 20 (H)
Tuesday 24 November						
Tuesday	24-Nov	AM	9.00am		Physics Paper 1	1h 15m (Combined) 1h 45m (Triple)
Tuesday	24-Nov	PM	1.30pm	OPTION B	Business Studies	1h 30m
					Computer Science	1h 30m
					Geography	1h
					History	1h 15m
					Music	tbc
					Religious Studies	1h 45m
					Sport BTEC*	1h 15m
					Spanish	1h 10m (F), 1h 20 (H)
Wednesday 25 November						
Wednesday	25-Nov	AM	9:00am		English Literature Paper 1	1h 45m
Wednesday	25-Nov	PM	1.30pm		Maths Paper 2	1h 30m
Thursday 26 November						
Thursday	26-Nov	AM	9.00am		Chemistry Paper 1	1h 15m (Combined) 1h 45m (Triple)
Thursday	26-Nov	PM	1.30pm	OPTION C	Business Studies	1h 30m
					Computer Science	1h 30m
					Food Prep and Nutrition	1h 45m
					Geography	1h
					History	1h 15m
					Spanish (Writing)	1h 10m (F), 1h 20 (H)
Friday 27 November						
Friday	27-Nov	AM	9.00am		Biology Paper 1	1h 15m (Combined) 1h 45m (Triple)
Friday	27-Nov	PM	1.30pm	OPTION D	Business Studies	1h 30m
					DT	2h
					French (Writing)	1h 10m (F), 1h 20 (H)
					Food Prep and Nutrition	1h 45m
					History	1h 15m
					Health & Social Care BTEC	2h
					Spanish (Writing)	1h 10m (F), 1h 20 (H)

BFS Food Tech



Quiche

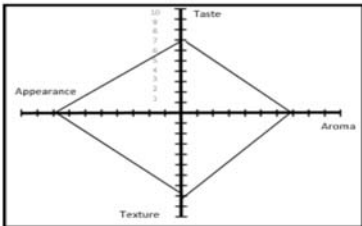
L.O. Learn how to make and shape a dough product

What does coagulation mean? The eff turning a liquid into a solid through coagulation.



Fill in the chart below asking 4 people to mark your quiche out of 10 for the 4 sensory areas. Then find the average score for each column by adding them together and then dividing by the amount of people you asked.

	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
Taste	7	8	8	7
Texture	6	8	9	7
Aroma	7	7	7	7
Appearance	8	8	9	8
Average				



EXTENSION

Food Technology has needed to run a little differently this term to ensure Covid security is our top priority. As always however, the BFS students have risen to the challenge and produced some outstanding products in their home kitchens.

Quiche

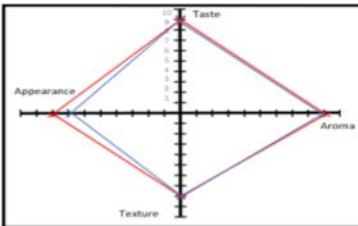
L.O. Learn how to make and shape a dough product

What does coagulation mean? When a substance is heated and is changed to be solid.



Fill in the chart below asking 4 people to mark your quiche out of 10 for the 4 sensory areas. Then find the average score for each column by adding them together and then dividing by the amount of people you asked.

	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
Taste	9	9		
Texture	8	8		
Aroma	9	9		
Appearance	8	7		
Average	8.5	8.25		



EXTENSION

These quiches were made by Year 9 students to showcase their shortcrust pastry skills and the science behind protein coagulation to make a tasty treat for their families.

Well done Year 9!



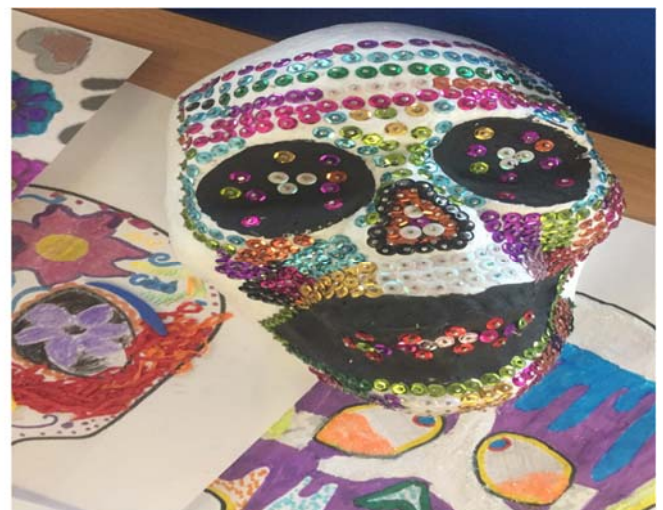


The MFL department is delighted with all of the fantastic entries we received this week for the Day of the Dead sugar skull design competition. The Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday celebrated in Mexico and elsewhere associated with the Catholic celebrations of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, and is held on November 1 and 2. The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to pray for and to remember friends and family members who have died.

We received almost 40 entries, all of which were highly creative and it is very clear that students have made a huge effort with their entries!

Here are some pictures of the entries we received. Congratulations to our winners!

Miss Rowden – Teacher of MFL



And the winners are...



The Language Ambassador Scheme at Bristol Free School



We have an amazing, inclusive community at Bristol Free School.

Did you know that twenty-five languages are spoken within our community? At the end of last term, I asked if any students (right the way from Year 7 up to Year 11) would be interested in participating in a new initiative this academic year at Bristol Free School called the Language Ambassador Scheme.

I was overwhelmed when I read and counted through the applications I received – over forty in total! The fact that we have so many fantastically keen linguists at Bristol Free School is exceptional and is definitely something that we should celebrate!



I will be getting in touch with all prospective Language Ambassadors very soon and we will schedule our first meeting and project before the end of term (via Teams). After Christmas, Language Ambassador badges will be issued to those who have made an excellent contribution and have attended all Language Ambassador meetings. Those students will then continue to be Language Ambassadors for at least the remainder of this academic year. I am very excited to work with you all over the coming weeks and months!

Ms Rowden (Teacher of MFL)



BFS SCIENCE



The Science department has received some new equipment this week from the University of Southampton. These electronic engineering kits will help to enrich the A-Level physics course.

Students will be able to explore the behaviour of electric charge in a variety of circuit components and even unveil mysteries of quantum physics!



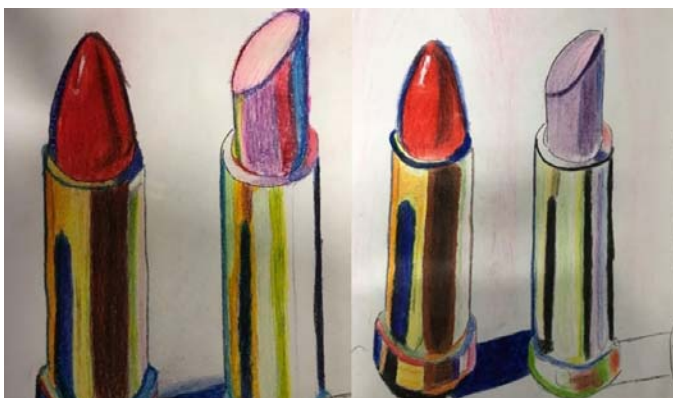
BFS ART



Beautiful Colour Pencil drawing from 11A GCSE Art. These are studies of the work by Wayne Theibaud and these amazing students are still able to create such beautiful work, amongst all the Mock exam pressures. Inspiring talent, Well done!!



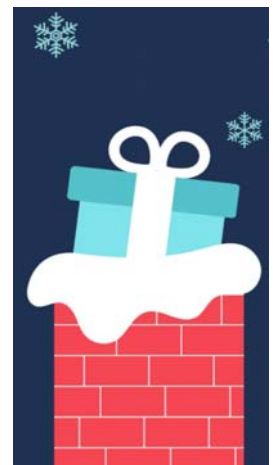
WAYNE THEIBAUD





We would like students to design a Christmas card which shows the Christmas traditions and language of another country of their choice. Pupils should research and design their card using, if they wish, a variety of materials.

- * Entries can be submitted in **any** foreign language—entries containing English language will not be accepted.
- * Please pass entries to **Ms Rowden in DF15**. There will be some prizes available for successful entries!
- * Please write your **name, tutor group and the language/culture** you have chosen on the back of your entries
- * **DEADLINE:** Friday 11 December 2020—Winners will be announced the following week



WEAR YOUR MASK

#StopTheSpread

FOLLOW THE ONE WAY SYSTEM

#KeepOurCommunitySafe

