

Words from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Now we have entered the advent period it is beginning to feel a lot more festive. Here at BFS we have started earlier than usual with our Christmas decorations. We have several Christmas Trees around the school site including a 10 foot tree in the dining hall. Thank you to some of our very helpful Year 12s who have done a great job decorating it. We plan to start playing Christmas music at lunchtimes very soon! On a more serious note, we are also asking students to look outwards and use this festive season to think of those who are less fortunate. Over the last few years BFS has always supported local charities with food donations and fundraising. This year we would like to do even more to help as this pandemic has disproportionately impacted on poorer families and vulnerable people.

This year we will be supporting the following local charities:

- North Bristol Food Bank – we need food donations
- FareShare – the charity supported by Marcus Rashford – being led by our Sixth Form Community and Charity Committee. Christmas gift donations urgently needed
- Caring for Christmas – fundraising via ParentPay (non-uniform day 18 Dec)



Each charity has a slightly different focus and therefore we can collect a range of food, non-food and monetary donations. There has been much research and evidence that helping others has mental health benefits for the giver. Please read the article in the newsletter and let's make 2020 our best fundraiser Christmas yet.

Back to the classroom, Year 11 and Year 13 will be receiving their mock 1 results over the next few lessons. Time will be spent identifying knowledge gaps and revision themes as part of the feedback process. The exact form GCSE and A Level exams will take in the summer is still unclear. The announcement from the DFE this week reassuring us that exams will be marked more generously and topic lists will be shared to support students' revision is definitely a step in the right direction. I am relieved since young people are understandably anxious about sitting full papers when they have missed time in school. The most important thing for Year 11 and Year 13 now is to focus on their own progress and not worry about things out of their control. They need to listen to feedback carefully, practise exam questions regularly and work hard. I am confident if we stay focused these two cohorts will do really well in the summer...whatever happens with the exam format.

We say goodbye to Ms Kolkowska next week who has taught art whilst Mrs Stokes was on maternity leave. We wish her the very best in her new teaching position and thank her for the contribution she has made to BFS in her time here. We welcome Mrs Parry back from Maternity leave, It's great to see you and we hope you are settling in well.

Finally I would like to say how well the students are doing at the moment. It has been a long term with lots of uncertainty; however their approach and positive attitude is fantastic.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter this week

Mrs S King
Headteacher



Key Diary Dates

Wednesday 16 December	Sixth Former for a Day—Year 11 Students
Friday 18 December	Final Day of Term— School closes at 12:30pm— Please wear mufti
Monday 4 January	Inset Day
Tuesday 5 January	Start of Term (All Students)
Thursday 14 January	Year 11 Subject Evening
Thursday 21 January	Year 13 Subject Evening



FOBFS AGM - Save the Date!

Friends of Bristol Free School (FoBFS) is the school's PTA and charity, who raise funds for the benefit of the school and the pupils.

Who are FoBFS?
How do we raise funds to benefit our children?

How can FoBFS support BFS and pupils in 2021?

Would you like to have your say?
Would you like to be more involved?

Please join us at 8pm on Thursday 7th January 2021 for our Annual General Meeting. This will be held online, the link will be available on the FoBFS webpage:

<https://www.bristolofreeschool.org.uk/fobfs.php>

Come join us - We hope to see you there!

fobfs@bristolofreeschool.org.uk

[@FoBFS](#)

[Friends of Bristol Free School](#)

CoronaVirus Updates

















We are now in Tier 3. Please follow the guidance from the Government to protect Bristol and our community. For more information and detailed guidance please visit: gov.uk/coronavirus.



TIER 3

VERY HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY  <p>No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).</p>	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS  <p>Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.</p>	RETAIL  <p>Open.</p>	WORK AND BUSINESS  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
EDUCATION  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	INDOOR LEISURE  <p>Open. Group activities and classes should not take place.</p>	ACCOMMODATION  <p>Closed (with limited exceptions)</p>	PERSONAL CARE  <p>Open.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS  <p>We advise against overnight stays other than with household or support bubble.</p>	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.</p>	ENTERTAINMENT  <p>Indoor venues closed.</p>	PLACES OF WORSHIP  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING  <p>Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply. Reduce the number of journeys where possible. Plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble.</p>	EXERCISE  <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with your household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	RESIDENTIAL CARE  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	LARGE EVENTS  <p>Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.</p>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMPETITION



Bristol Free School is extremely proud to celebrate its diversity and that of the wider community, and this was particularly so during Black History Month. To promote and enrich our understanding of the diversity in our history, culture and society, the BFS History Department challenged students to produce a piece of research into an area of BME

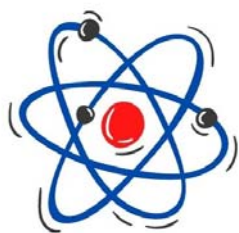
history of particular significance or interest to them. We have received some fabulous entries, on themes such as the Black Lives Matter movement and individuals including Mary Seacole, Felicity Mendez and Olive Morris.



Championing Black History Month have been Head Girl Mya and fellow sixth former Faith, who have produced some outstanding video resources to enrich our understanding and awareness of BME history.

Entries for the Black History Month competition will now be used to create a display in the D block to showcase these outstanding contributions and to help recognise and celebrate diversity all year round.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part, in particular Awura, Eleanor, Lottie, Shiloh, Bethan, Ellie, Jess, Lucy and Eloise for your stand out entries.



BFS SCIENCE



Home Science Experiment—Red Cabbage Indicator



Tis the season when red cabbage is back on the menu. If you have a few spare cabbage leaves you can very quickly make an effective pH indicator.

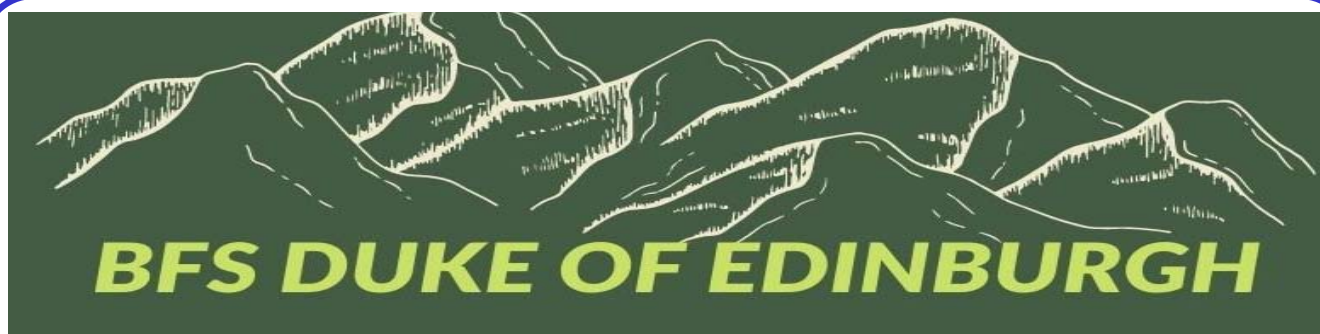
Due to the current restrictions on practicals in school we have suggested a few experiments for students to do at home and this has been the most successful yet. Chop, crush and boil in a small amount of warm water to get a purple liquid that will change colour when mixed with acidic or alkali chemicals. The more purple your cabbage water the better it works.

Many house hold items can be tested; baking soda, soap, vinegar, tooth paste, milk and lemon juice all work well, but anything is worth a try.

What happens if you test vinegar and then add some bicarbonate of soda to the mix? Test the colours for yourself.

Here are some example pictures sent in by 7TG7 last week.





We are delighted to be able to offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bristol Free School. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a life-changing experience. An opportunity to discover new interests and talents, or hone your abilities in an existing one. A tool to develop essential skills for life, university and work. A recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers.



BFS has a well-established programme and are officially accredited to run the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. If you would like further information on the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and participating at BFS, please contact our highly dedicated and committed DofE team— Mr Wiczorek and Mr Ellis.



My name is Mr Wiczorek, I'm the new Duke of Edinburgh Manager at Bristol Free School. I'm delighted to be coordinating the award this year and look forward to working with all of you during this interesting period.

My normal role in school is as a Teaching Assistant with the SEN department, specialising in Maths and Science. Outside of school I'm a keen rock climber, a passion which led to summiting my first 4000m peaks in the French Alps last summer. I hope I'm able to provide a similar sense of achievement to our students through the DofE scheme this year!



I am Mr Ellis and I am a Science teacher and the Assistant Manager for the D of E Award.

I have been at BFS since January 2020 and have worked with the D of E scheme in several schools in London and Bristol. I have also been actively involved with training students for the Ten Tors Challenge for more than 15 years and have a passion for wild places: my absolute favourite place in the Southwest is Dartmoor.

I hope to use my experience of hiking and camping to help students to prepare for and get the most enjoyment from their D of E Expedition.

I look forward to working with students, helping them to plan their activities and also to make a contribution through volunteering.



BFS 12 days of Christmas

BFS welcome our festive 12 days of Christmas menu for all students.

Despite not being able to hold our usual Christmas dinner our fantastic catering team have devised a delicious menu for students to enjoy from Thursday 3 December



Sounds tree-mendous, who's excited to be part of the festivities?



COLD DELI

DUCK & ORANGE SALAD

SPICED ROASTED CARROT, FETA & POMEGRANATE SALAD

TURKEY, HAM & STUFFING MAYO DOORSTOP

ROAST TURKEY BLOOMER
With Sage & Onion Stuffing
Mayonnaise

NORTH POLE JELLY

HOT DELI

CURRIED PARSNIP SOUP with Onion Bhaji
Crumbs

PUFFED PIGS IN BLANKETS

GOATS CHEESE & CARAMELISED ONION ROLL

CHRISTMAS TURKEY & BACON PANINI

TOASTED BRIE & CHRISTMAS SPICED TOMATO CHUTNEY CIABATTA

CHRISTMAS TREE CHEESE N' HAM PUFFS

CAKE STAND

YULE CHOCOLATE LOG PARCELS

CHRISTMAS PUDDING MUFFIN

STAINED GLASS SHORTBREAD

ROCKY ROAD CUPCAKE

TRADITIONAL MINCE PIES

CHRISTMAS TREE POP

CHRISTMAS BARK

DRINKS & DESSERTS

CHOCOLATE
With Gingerbread Crumb

CRANBERRY & ORANGE CHELSEA BUN
With Custard

BERRY CHRISTMAS SLUSH

WINTER CRUMBLE TART

CHRISTMAS PANNA COTTA

SALTED CARAMEL & CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

DASHER'S SUNDAE

AMAZING CHRISTMAS SPECIALS





We would like to thank the students who have already entered the MFL Christmas Card Competition. As you can already see it's going to be hard work to pick a winner!



A fantastic effort from all year groups.



It's still not too late to enter. The deadline is Friday 11 December. Don't forget:

- * Entries can be submitted in **any** foreign language—N.B entries containing English language will not be accepted
- * Please pass on 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
- * **Winners will be announced the following week**



The Language Ambassador Scheme –Updates

We are excited to announce that the MFL Department have a Language Ambassador Team up and running. Congratulations to all students who are involved!

A reminder to these students that Ms Rowden will be scheduling the first virtual meeting for Wednesday 9 December (3:20—3:40pm). Please bring as many ideas as possible regarding what could be done in school this year to raise the profile of other languages/ culture.

Students who engage well this term will be issued a badge and confirmation of their Language Ambassador position.

We look forward to seeing your ideas.



Christmas 2020 Charity Collection

This year we are supporting two really important local charity initiatives.



The first is Caring at Christmas, a charity which provides food and shelter for homeless people over the Christmas period. BFS families gave generously to this worthwhile cause last year and we are keen to continue our support.

<https://caringinbristol.co.uk/project/caring-at-christmas/>

Unfortunately, this year they are unable to accept physical donations. Students can wear non-uniform on the final day of term Friday 18 December and you can donate through Parentpay. There is also information on the website about how to donate directly to this very

worthwhile cause.



We are also asking students to support Fareshare <https://fareshare.org.uk> and our local foodbank which is run by the Trussell Trust. <https://northbristol.foodbank.org.uk/> A list of the items students can donate is shared on page 10.

We are asking students to bring these items into school and give them to their tutor, with the final date for donations being Wednesday 16 December. Our 6th Form leadership team is overseeing the collection of donations. They have been in contact with Fareshare who would have asked our students to support their 'foodstock' initiative by bringing in the following items:

- ◆ Crackers (either edible or Christmas)
- ◆ Chocolates, Mince pies,
- ◆ Christmas pudding/cake
- ◆ Christmas snacks

These will then be shared with families when Christmas food parcels are distributed locally. The deadline for the 'foodstock' items only is **Wednesday 9 December**.

Given the recent high-profile coverage of this issue in the media, spearheaded by Marcus Rashford, we feel this as an initiative our students and wider school community will fully support.

Mrs Jenkins, Assistant Headteacher





BRISTOL
FREE SCHOOL



Christmas 2020 Charity Collection

This year we are collecting donations for the North Bristol Food Bank that is run by the Trussell Trust.



Students can bring the items listed below to your tutor room.

**The last day for donations is:
Wednesday 16 December**

Our 6th Form student leadership team will collect the donations from tutor rooms.



What to Donate

Non Food Items

- Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand wipes
- Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid
- Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons
- Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes and baby food
- Face masks and hand sanitiser

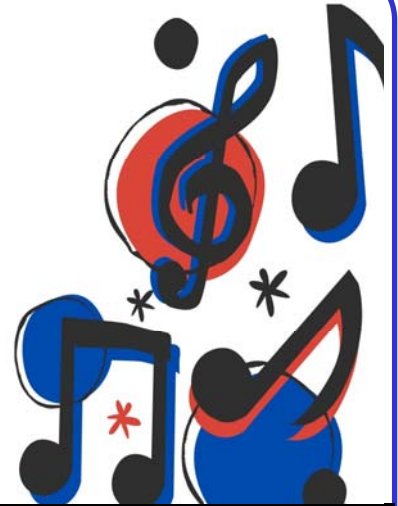
Food Items

- Cereal
- Soup
- Pasta
- Rice
- Tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce
- Lentils, beans and pulses
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tea/coffee
- Tinned Fruit
- Biscuits
- UHT milk
- Fruit juice

Save the Date!

Christmas Live Lounge

Thursday 17 December



Bring in the **Christmas** spirit and mark your calendars, **DECEMBER 17! It's not too late to sign up!**

On Thursday 17 December, the Music Department will be hosting a virtual "live lounge" Christmas concert featuring performances from students across the school.

If you would like to get involved, please film yourself playing a piece of music (Christmassy or otherwise!) and email it to d.pate@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.

The performance will be broadcast live on YouTube!
You can watch it here: <https://youtu.be/Sj3zFxtfyzQ>





BFS English



Welcome to the LRC

Introducing our Library Department



Mrs Spear

*Curriculum
Learning Mentor*



Mrs Lombard

*Curriculum
Learning Mentor*

Reading for pleasure is indispensable for your academic and emotional growth.

We're delighted to announce that the school library will be reopening for years 7 and 8, with added COVID safety measures, to help ensure our students are able to access their favourite books.

Over the Christmas break we would love to hear that the students at BFS are engaging with exciting and engaging texts, so the English and library department has put together a list of some of our favourites.

We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we have.

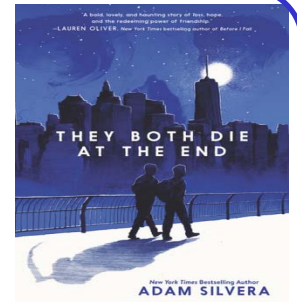
Mr Gowen, Teacher of English



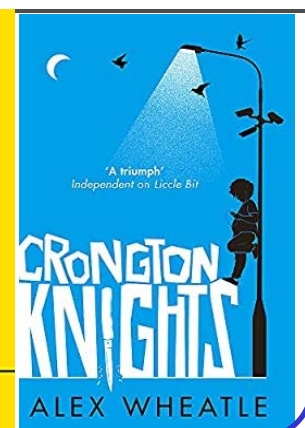
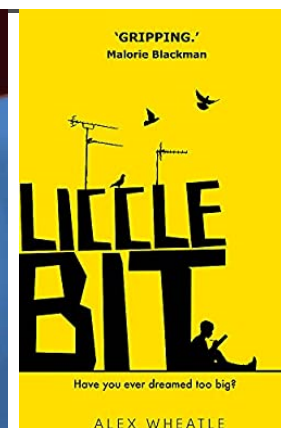
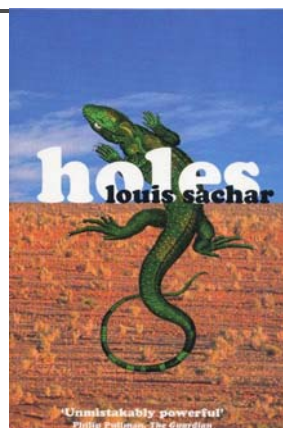


BFS English

Bristol Free School Recommends



Book Title and Author	Topics	Synopsis	Picked by	ZPD Score
They Both Die at the End By Adam Silvera	Death Science Fiction Growing Up Friendship LGBTQ Dystopia	When a service is created to tell people when they will die, teenagers Mateo and Rufus meet using the Last Friend app and are faced with the challenge of living a lifetime on their End Day.	Mr Gowen	5.5
Crongton Knights By Alex Wheatle	Family Life Death Bullying Council Estates Violence BLM	When McKay strays off his council estate on a mission to help out a girl, he finds himself facing a friend's crazy ex-boyfriend, some power-tripping hood-rats and a notoriously violent gangster with a vendetta which hits too close to home.	Ms Ludwell	4.4
Holes by Louis Sachar	Mystery Friendship Adventure	As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert.	Ms Watkins	4.6
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time By Mark Haddon	Absent Parents Detective Autism	When Christopher finds a neighbour's dog killed he determines to unravel the mystery. But the world is a very strange place seen through the eyes of an autistic and gifted 15-year-old boy, and Christopher soon finds out more than he could ever imagine.	Mr Gowen	5.4
Liclle Bit By Alex Wheatle	Gangs Love Loyalty Council Estates	As a gang war breaks out on Liclle Bit's estate, he finds himself caught up in it. Can he keep his family from danger and realise his dreams	Ms Ludwell	4.6

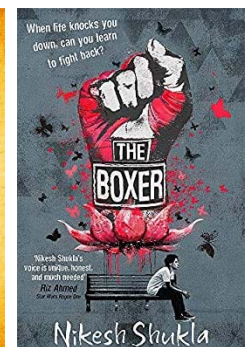
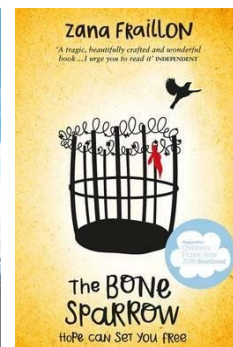
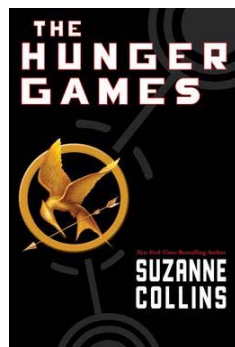
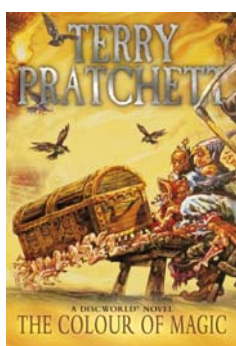




BFS English

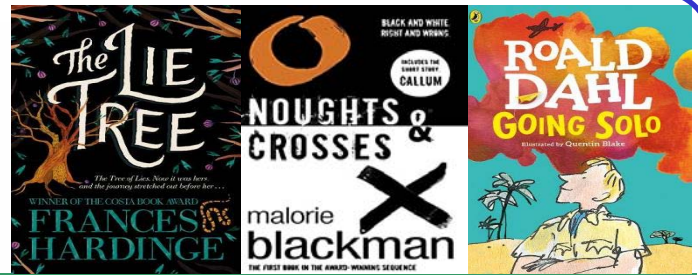


Book Title and Author	Topics	Synopsis	Picked by	ZPD Score
Oh My Gods by Alexandra Sheppard	Family Life New Surroundings Greek Myths Romance Friendships	Half-mortal Helen has just moved in with her dorky dad and siblings, who just happen to be the ancient Greek gods! Can she keep her family's identity secret or is she fated to be banished to Mount Olympus?	Ms Ludwell	4.9
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins	Adventure Dystopias Survival Family Violence	In a future North America, where rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual survival competition, 16 year old Katniss's skills are tested when she voluntarily takes her sister's place.	Mr Stevens	5.3
The Colour of Magic by Terry Pratchett	Fantasy Comedy Adventure	This book is the maiden voyage through the legendary land of Discworld. This is where it all begins, with the tourist Twoflower and his wizard guide, Rincewind.	Mr Harris	6.4
Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo	War Family History Trauma	Private Thomas Peaceful is only eighteen but he has seen the horrors of war and experienced the full weight of its unfairness.	Ms Watkins	5.2
Clean Getaway by Nic Stone	Prejudice BLM Family Life	For the life of him, William "Scoob" Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble, and now the run-ins at school have led to a lockdown at home.	Ms Ludwell	5.0
The Boxer by Nikesh Shukla	Prejudice Violence Racism LGBTQ Identity Boxing	Sunny's life changes the night he is attacked by racists in his new city. Stepping into a boxing gym, he finds the community he's desperately been seeking. But racial tensions are rising and he begins questioning where his new friends stand.	Ms Ludwell	4.0
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon	Human Rights Family Life Refugees	Life inside a detention centre is all Subhi knows - he was born there, the child of a refugee. But when Jimmie, a girl from outside, starts to visit, he starts to question whether his reality is fair or humane.	Mr Gowen	4.9

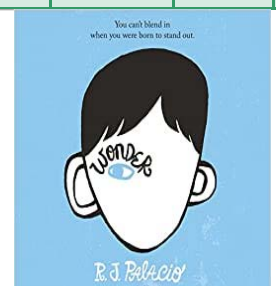
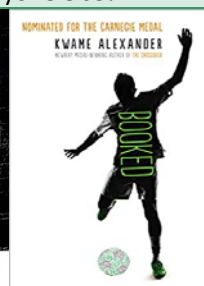
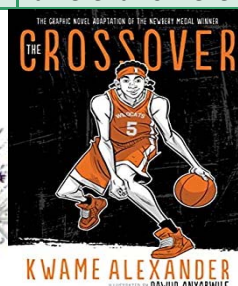
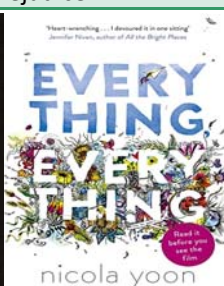
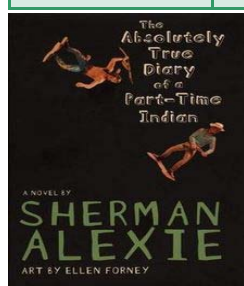




BFS English



Book Title and Author	Topics	Synopsis	Picked by	ZPD Score
Going Solo By Roald Dahl	Non-fiction War Travel Adventure Autobiography	Going Solo is the autobiographical sequel of Boy, which is written by the world-famous author Roald Dahl. It is about his life as a worker with the Shell Company and an RAF fighter pilot. ...	Ms Watkins	6.1
Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon	Romance Health Death Journals	In a story told through vignettes, diary entries, texts, charts, lists and illustrations, a girl confined to her house by rare and profound allergies falls hopelessly in love with her new neighbour	Ms Ludwell	4.4
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie	Prejudice Racism Community Diaries Growing Up	Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.	Mr Harrs	4.0
Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman	Racism Romance Sex Violence Dystopia Parental Abuse	In Callum's world the white noughts are second-class citizens and the black Crosses are highly revered and perceived as the superior race. Callum is a nought and his best friend, Sephy, is a Cross and the daughter of a powerful politician.	Ms Watkins	4.0
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander	Sports Fathers Siblings Poetry	Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.	Ms Menon	4.3
Booked by Kwame Alexander	Football Divorce Growing Up	Told in free verse, twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress his dream girl. Helping him along are his friends and football mates, and The Mac, a rapping librarian.	Ms Menon	3.9
The Lie Tree by Francis Hardinge	Mystery Death	When Faith's father dies under mysterious circumstances it is up to her to uncover the truth with the help of one of her father's plants: a tree that feeds on lies.	Mr Gowen	6.4
Wonder by R.J Palacio	Growing Up Comedy Bullying Friendship Prejudice	After being home-schooled for years, Auggie Pullman is about to start fifth grade, but he's worried: How will he fit into middle-school life when he looks so different from everyone else?	Ms Watkins	4.8



BFS Art & Photography



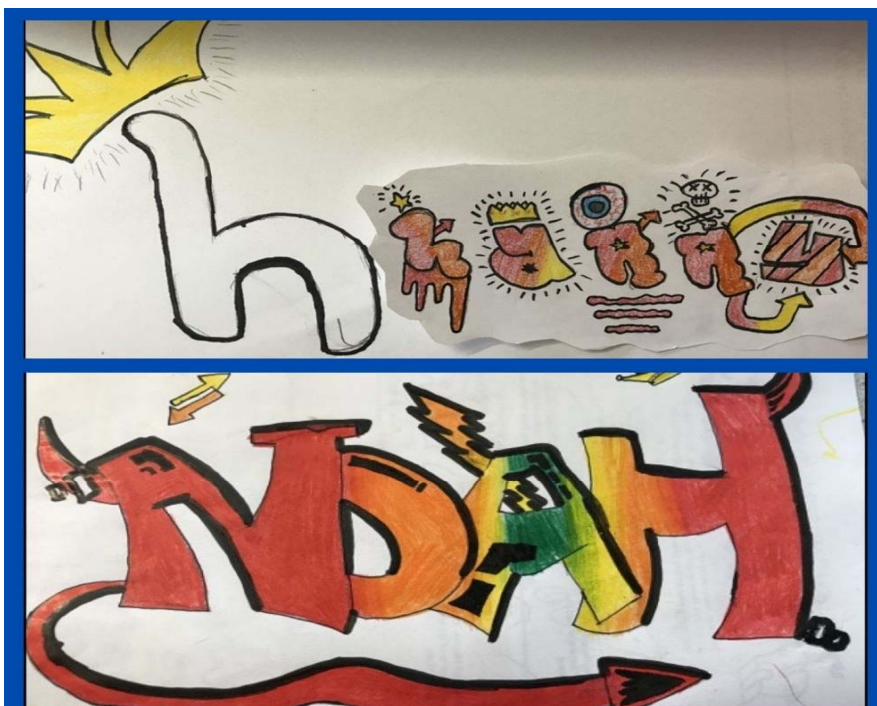
Year 7 have been learning about colour theory and pattern in their recent art lessons, as well as drawing to music.

Here are some lovely examples of their 'Mindfulness' pattern creations.



Year 9 have completed their Graffiti drawing project with some wonderful Tag designs. Well done Year 9

Well done **Harry in 9TG5** for showing amazing progress in your Graffiti TAG designs.



BFS Art & Photography



Year 10 have been learning how to paint, using acrylic paint. They are already showing signs of becoming accomplished painters. Here are some lovely examples by Keziah and Sophie – beautiful colour mixing and careful application. Impressive!

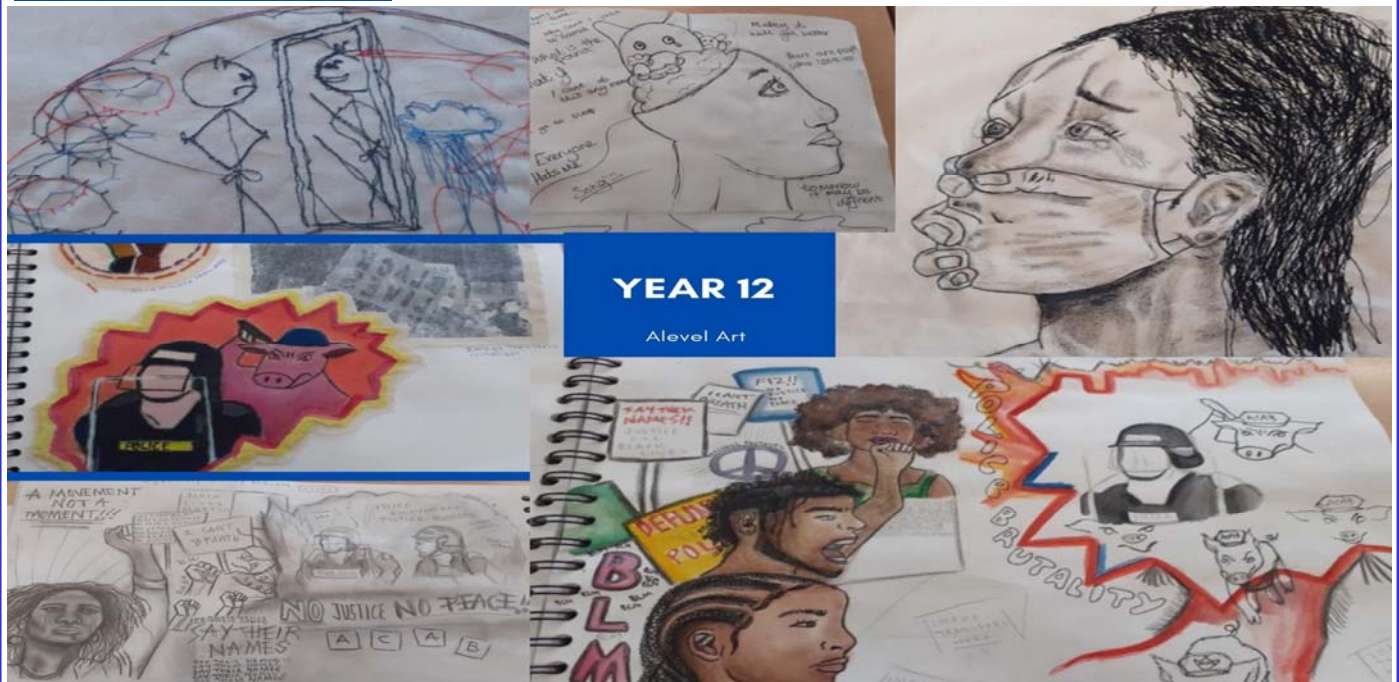


Year 12 A Level Art

Wonderful examples of planning, and experimentations.

Year 12 are working in the style of Grayson Perry. Here are some drawings and plans for final pieces and some textile experiments.

They are also hand building large scale pots – watch this space for those...they are looking fabulous!



YEAR 12

Alevel Art

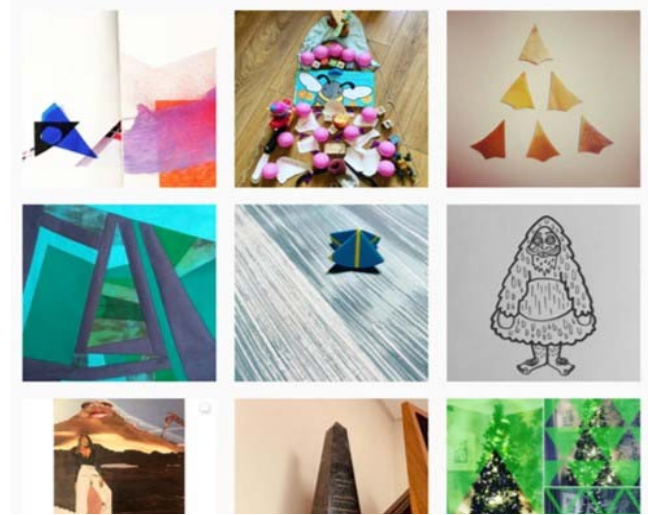
Well done Sam for capturing some amazing Abstract shots, using a variety of digital techniques.

Photography is alive at BFS and we hope to offer some Photography enrichment for KS3 in the new year.

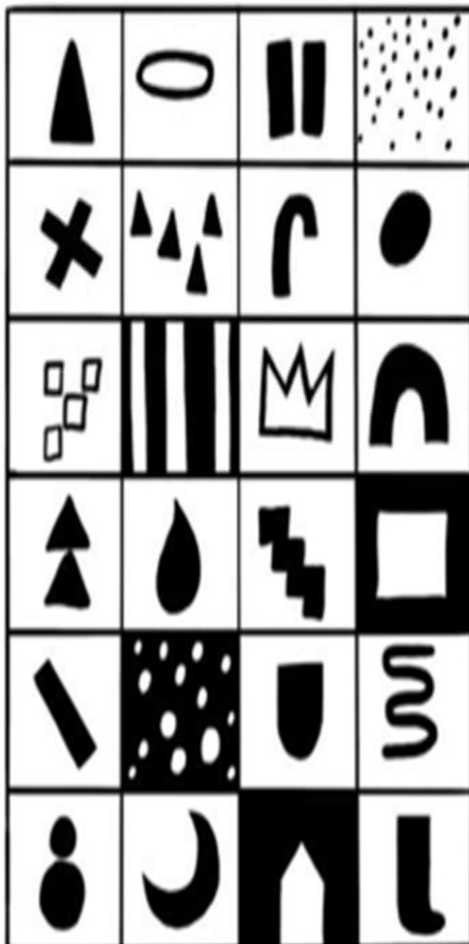


BFS Art & Photography

Introduce you to #Abstractadvent



#Abstractadvent



#Abstractadvent is a daily creative challenge running from 1-24 December 2020.

It's suitable for all ages, from KS3 to KS5; artists, illustrators, photographers, writers... everyone is welcome.

The visual prompt/shapes are simply the starting point. Do with it what you wish. You might choose to:

- Incorporate the shape into an abstract work.
- Convert the shape into something else by doodling or illustrating within or around it.
- Photograph something visually connected.
- Use the shape as a prompt for creative writing, poetry, performance ...

Please see Ms Kinnersley's video to explain more and how to get involved.

<https://www.loom.com/share/5979153ed94b49dc83396bccac88b9e7>

