



Bristol Brunel Academy Termly Newsletter

From The Principal

Once again it has been a busy term for us here at BBA. However, before we take the time to celebrate all the wonderful things that our students have done this term, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the tragic events that have shocked our city with the deaths of three young people.

A number of unhelpful social media posts have been circulating which are largely sharing misinformation and rumouring, please talk to your children advising that they remove themselves from groups that are circulating incorrect information and that they do not share, like or comment on these posts. We must respect the privacy and ensure the safety of all the young people and families who have been affected by this event. If you have any concerns, you can contact us here at BBA on safeguarding@bba.clf.uk or alternatively contact the police directly.



The term came to a close with the epic performance of We Will Rock You – I want to thank those of you who came to support the show, the staff and students who have been rehearsing for many months, giving up their time – the talent of our students definitely rocked us throughout all of the performances.

Big congratulations to our Duke of Edinburgh students who have worked hard to gain their Silver award, this is the culmination of two years of dedication from staff and students.

Show Racism the Red Card was a huge success with many of our students taking the opportunity to wear red to show their support. This has now become an annual event and it has become bigger and bigger each year.

Our Year 11 students continue to work really hard and are very focused on the exam season which has just landed. We have been impressed by the collective attitude and mature approach that they have showed throughout. We wish them the very best of luck and have absolute faith in their ability.

Our sports teams have been doing well this term in their basketball and football matches. It is a real pleasure to see how their hard work and dedication to attending training with the PE staff has paid off.

Once again, thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support throughout this last term. We are looking forward to another busy and successful term ahead!



WE WILL ROCK YOU

SCHOOL EDITION

The Performing Arts Department were proud to present the annual school production of We Will Rock You during the penultimate week of term 3. The production included 45 students, across Year 7 to Year 11, showcasing performers, musicians, lighting tech and backstage crew.

The show is a musical featuring the songs of British rock band Queen and written by Ben Elton. The story tells the tale of the last guitar on the "I-planet". Set in a dystopian future where a group of bohemians struggle to restore the free exchange of thought, fashion and live music from the Killer Queen.

The students performed four packed out live shows including a matinee show for primary school students. They worked incredibly hard during rehearsals to create a show to proud of!

Audience feedback -

"Amazing! I can't believe it was so good!"

"Fantastic, we want to come and see it again!"

"Absolutely loved it"

Special thanks to the Performing Arts team - Drew Salida, Joanne Ayre, Peter Edwards, Caitlin Godwin, and John Szmidt for all their hard work. Next year's show is sure to be even bigger and better. Watch this space for exciting production news, coming up in term 4!

Ms J Ayre (She/Her)



Review

From January 30th to February 1st we were indeed rocked as the cast of the musical, based on music by Queen, put on amazing display of vocal, acting and dancing talent.

From the opening number of Radio Gaga right through to the Bohemian Rhapsody finale, the audience were kept engaged with a riveting story of a future where music was all computer generated and where a few “Bohemians” were seeking to find the lost soul of rock and roll.

Engaging characters and not a little bit of humour moved the story along at a pace. I don't think anyone who was there will likely forget Felix McEwen's performance of Buddy (Holly and the Crickets) channelling a cross between Keith Richards and Ozzy Osbourne. I will never look at Katy Perry in quite the same light.

For some of the students this will be their last performance but so much talent was on display that the future of school performances looks bright indeed.

Mr Smerdon

We Will Rock You (cont.)

Thanks and praise must go to the whole cast but also the backstage crew, technical team and not least the band. Finally a massive thank you to all the staff in the Music , Drama and Art team who worked tirelessly to put it all together



They
Rocked



Duke Of Edinburgh Award Silver Awards

Maria Christodoulides

Hannah Miscite

Oliver Smith

Ashton Burr

Skye Sleightholme

Maisie Thomas

Noah Goodfield

Laila Ahmed

Luca Bowers

JJ Pope



Spencer Kebby

Sophie King

Ethan McLoughlin

Morgen Kembrey

Libby Selway

Bruce Maisey

Ethan Hayes

Giacomo Hadeff

Katie Mullin

Alexandra Williams

To achieve the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award is no mean feat. It takes two years of dedication and resilience to get through to this stage. In each year students have devoted time to learning new skills, physical activities and undertaken close to 650 hours of voluntary work between them before we even get to the expeditions.

This group have suffered more than most having both the wettest days and hottest days we even have ice in the tent on one expedition!

They are a credit to the school and an example to their peers of what young people are capable of achieving.

Ms Jackson + Mr Smerdon

Show Racism The Red Card



**SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD**

"10s8 believe in a zero-tolerance approach to racism in OUR school."

"We do not hurt others; we are not racist; we are together." – 9M2



"We will not use unkind language to those who have the courage to report racism that may be happening to other members of our community." – 7S7

The whole Academy took the opportunity to wear red on Friday 19th January to support the movement to Show Racism the Red Card.

A message from the PE Team

If anyone has any moulded studded football boots the Academy would really appreciate any donations from anyone who no longer has a use for them. Any sizes would be hugely appreciated, particularly size 5 and above. Thank you in advance, from the PE team.



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Anti-bullying charter.

Before Christmas, our anti-bullying ambassadors met with fellow young leaders from Hans Price Academy and Winterstoke Hundred Academy.

The students discussed anti-bullying at our academies and created ideas for an anti-bullying charter across all three schools. The BBA anti-bullying ambassadors met this term to create our own charter, which was launched to our students in assemblies last week. Our new anti-bullying charter will be shared on our website and can be found below

Anti-Bullying Charter

We ensure that all students voices are heard.

We encourage our students to stand up and speak out! We are Defenders.

Our community encourages people to feel welcomed and respected.

We promise to embrace and celebrate diversity, by creating an inclusive environment for all.



We all make exceptional things happen everyday

Academically | Professionally | Socially | Personally | Within the Community ¹

School Council

Introducing the 4 House Captains on the School Council ...

BBA School Council

Every student at BBA should feel that their voice can be heard.



Hello everyone, my name is Diandrew. Thank you for this opportunity to represent you as a School Councillor. I am in year 7 and my house is Amika.

I'll try to be a fair and confident leader to make my fellow peers feel welcome.

I always try my best to follow school values, and so should you! I am very approachable and friendly! I will listen to everyone's ideas and opinions with the aim of improving the academy.

I will help you if needed and I will try my best to be the greatest school councillor this academy ever had!

"Work hard and be kind."



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BBA School Council

Every student at BBA should feel that their voice can be heard.



Hi, I'm Sam, in year 9 but more importantly in Rashford House which is who I'll be representing in school council meetings. I love acting, playing rugby & drumming and believe BBA is a great place where everyone can find somewhere to feel included. However, there is always room to improve a few things.

These are the 3 things of equal value I stand for;

- Making the school greener
- Improving school meals
- Ensuring everyone is heard and that changes are made for the better so current and future students can flourish in our school.

Please speak to me or email if you'd rather if you believe change is needed and I will do as much as I can to solve your issue.



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School Council

BBA School Council

Every student at BBA should feel that their voice can be heard.



My name is Sruti. I am from Stephenson House and I'm a Year 7 pupil.

I represent **Eco club** in the School Council.

The reason I applied for this role was so I could make changes in this school for the better. I believe most teenagers face a dilemma when it comes to making their own voices heard, under the impression that speaking out makes you a nerd or a weird person. I want to change that because that self-doubt stops us from making the school a better place and growing as individuals.

In the School Council, we believe that your diverse personality should be loved!

"If you don't step out of your comfort zone to be the change, who will?"



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BBA School Council

Every student at BBA should feel that their voice can be heard.



Hi I'm Madinah and I'm in year 10, Malala House.

I represent Malala House on the School Council but anyone from any house should feel free to come to me with worries or ideas.

I hope to help make a positive change to BBA.



We all make exceptional things happen everyday

Academically | Professionally | Socially | Personally | Within the Community



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At BBA, LGBT+ Inclusion is fundamental to our ethos and it runs throughout the year, across all parts of the curriculum.

In addition, we are exceptionally proud to support LGBT+ history month which runs during February.

The 2024 theme celebrates LGBT+ peoples' contribution to the field of Medicine and Healthcare both historically and today.

Supporting LGBT+ History Month at Bristol Brunel Academy, or any educational institution, is important for several reasons:

Promoting Inclusivity and Diversity:

Recognising and celebrating LGBT+ History Month helps create an inclusive and diverse school environment. It sends a message that all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, are valued and respected.

Educational Opportunity:

LGBT+ History Month provides an opportunity for education and awareness. It allows students to learn about the history, struggles, and achievements of the LGBT+ community, helping to dispel stereotypes and misconceptions.

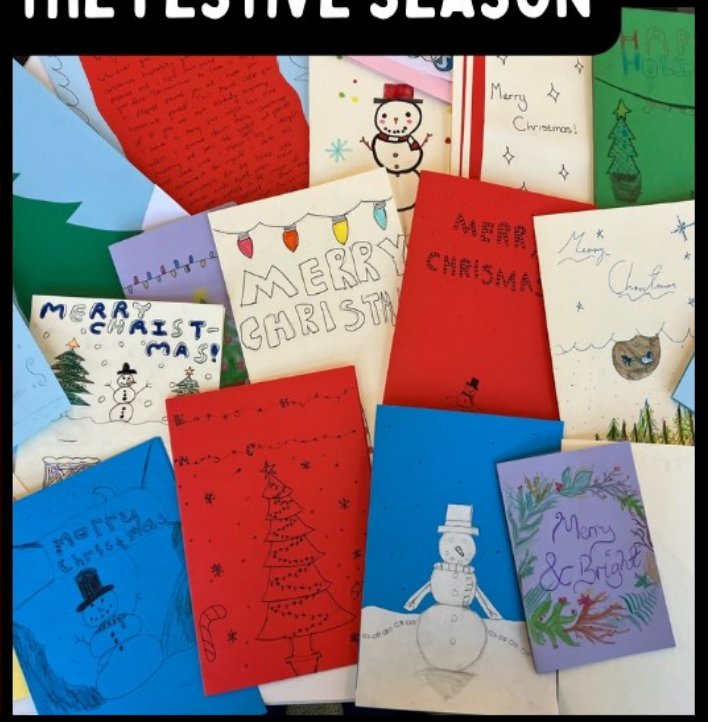
Supporting LGBT+ Students and Staff:

Showing support for LGBT+ History Month can be particularly meaningful for LGBT+ students and staff. It sends a clear message that BBA is a safe and supportive space for everyone.

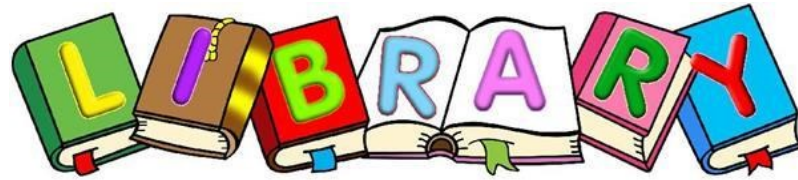
BBA In The Community



SPREADING JOY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON



Last term, the School Council delivered over 70 handmade season's greetings cards to the residents of St Georges care home. These cards had been created by students across the academy and helped to spread some festive joy to our wider community.



Wow!
We now have 12
Word Millionaires!

Congratulations to:

Izi O, Aariz K, Aditya J, Alex R-J, George H, Jackson R, Muhammad-Qasim H, Poppy D, Fleur B, Glade W, Sam P & Zach B
3 DOUBLE millionaires Ayesha H, Rhys C & Sumayya K



Congratulations to our **TOP SCORING**

Year 7s since January

Jack S passed 14 quizzes
 Stan K, Lionel T & Sumaya K passed 13 quizzes
 Ralph Mc & Sruti S passed 12 quizzes
 and **Year 8s**
 Izu O passed 13 quizzes
 Abdimalik H passed 11 quizzes
 Diego-Enrico S passed 9 quizzes



WORLD
BOOK DAY

Thursday
March
7th
2024



Last year the **Book Sale** raised over **£100** for charity and for new library books!

This year, we would love to reach the same figure or even beat it!!

If you have any **children's/ teenage books** in good condition that you no longer read, please bring them to Mrs Watkins in the library.

The Book Sale will take place from **Monday 4th - Friday 8th March.**

[The Library is now open at break/ lunchtime](#)

check the timetable on the library door

and before & after school for homework/quiet study

Also try these great sites for some online reading:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses/>

<https://manybooks.net/>

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

Check out the new *Red Eye* horror series!



HOLOCAUST
 MEMORIAL
 DAY



Year 7 News

Year 7 Team



Mrs Milburn
Associate Assistant
Principal



Mr Slocombe
Achievement Year Leader



Miss Bruford
Pastoral Year Leader



Miss Rumming
Pastoral Support
Assistant

Tutors:

7M1 – F6A



Mrs Coke

7M2 – S2A



Miss Walsh

7A3 – S6



Miss Fuorvito

7A4 – S12A



Miss Minns

7R5 - FS4



Miss Woods Mrs Soper

7R6 - FS3



Mr Rogers

7S7 - FS9



Miss Shakil

7S8 - F6B

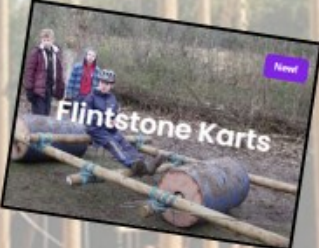


Mr Busby



Academically | Professionally | Socially | Personally | Within the Community

YEAR 7 SUMMER CAMP



COMING SOON

And much, much more.....



MONDAY 17 JUNE - THURSDAY 20TH JUNE

YR7 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

BBA v MET = 8 - 5 WIN!!!
BBA v ORCHARD = 4 - 31 LOSS
BBA v CAB = 8 - 13 LOSS



La'Shaya Graydon
Malcom Ferdinand
Niall Mc Pherson
Ethan Gillespie
Ruben Lawrence

Ronnie Bressington
Maya Barnaby
Twis Bruce
Oakley Hahn

8/1/24

8/1/2024

The Year 7 basketball team were out for their first tournament of the new year. Mixed results, but a win against local rivals Bristol Met is always welcome. Well done team.



24/11/2024

A triumphant Year 7 football team after a magnificent performance in which they beat Bristol Met by a very impressive 11-0!

22/01/2024

Year 7 Boys Basketball team were in action. They played 4 basketball games at City Academy yesterday afternoon and against all the odds put in a hearty effort. Despite some pretty impressive shots and baskets they came away in second place in all their games. What I liked and was pleasing to see the resilience and determination that each player showed .



Mr Slocombe



24/1/24 Girls Rugby

Wow what a fantastic group of students to represent BBA today.

The students played in a tournament with teams from across all of Bristol and Weston. This was organised by Whitehall Rugby club just down the road from school.

For 3 training sessions they played so well - with a mixture of wins and some losses. Ready for full contact next time!

Polly P, Rosie D Lily D Lena W Khrystyna P, Falisha F, Ilinca D and Esme P.

Ms Payton

Year 7 Art

Y7 Shout Outs-Term 3 Feb 2024 (Mrs McBride)

Y7 have been learning how to blend and layer pencil crayons to achieve these wonderfully rich drawings. Amazing work Y7, well done!



Harlan



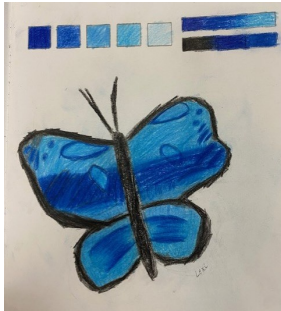
Raphael



Lilly



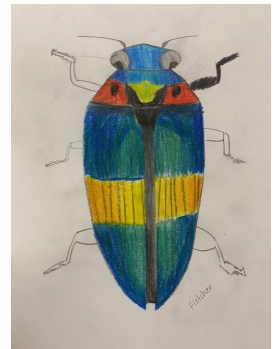
Rayya



Lexi



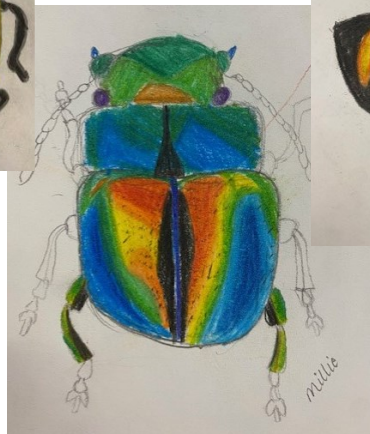
Sarah



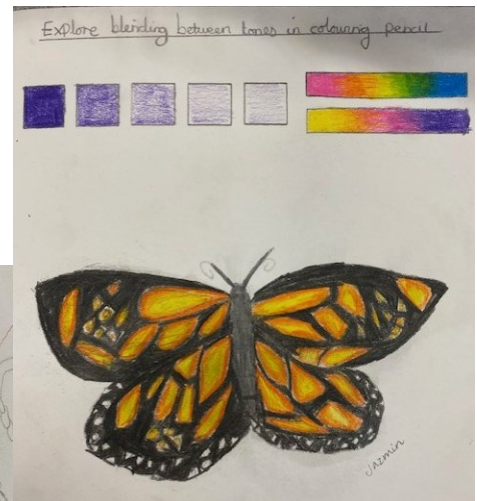
Fletcher



Lewis



Mille



Jazmin

Year 8 News

Hello from the Year 8 Team.

It has been lovely to see the number of Year 8s involved in enrichment activities through this term. Plenty were representing the year in the school production with some outstanding performances.

Our sports teams have also excelled with the boys football team unbeaten and the girls representing us in the Under 14 girls team (see Year 9).

If you ever need to contact us, your first port of call is your child's tutor. Here are their emails:

Findlay.Hazel@clf.uk (8M1)

Rizwana.Hussein@clf.uk (8M2)

Michael.Smerdon@clf.uk (8A3)

Farva.Ali@clf.uk (8A7)

Ianthe.Huntington@clf.uk (8R4)

Martin Ngai@clf.uk (8R5)

Huw.Solari@clf.uk (8R6)

Kealy.darby@clf.uk (8S8)

John.thorne@clf.uk (8S9)

Alternatively, you can reach the Year 8 Team at BBAYear8team@clf.uk or by calling 07599101211

Best wishes,

The Year 8 Team



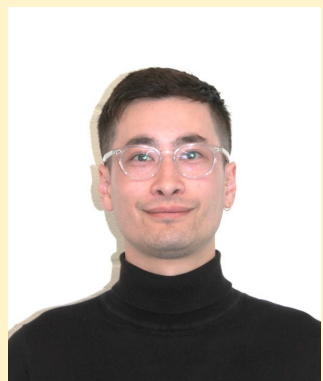
Miss Livingstone



Mr Sterling



Mrs Willetts



Mr Fan



24/1/2024

The Year 8 football team after overcoming their local rivals Bristol Met with a hard fought 3-1 win.

1/2/2024

The Year 8 football also completed a 4-2 win over Oasis John Williams to continue their winning run.

Year 9 News



Mr Ferguson
Associate
Assistant
Principal



Ms Baker
Academic Year
Lead



Mr Hall
Pastoral
Year Lead



Ms Tazaoui
Assistant
Pastoral
Year Lead

To contact the Year Team, use BBAYear9team@clf.uk

It's been another busy term for Year 9! Students have been receiving assemblies from curriculum areas in preparation for selecting their options. So far we have heard from science, drama, art, languages, textiles, food tech, product design, engineering, geography, history and religious studies. Students will have assemblies from statistics, music, business studies, computer science, PE and health and social care.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of you at options evening on **Thursday 7th March 2024**. Please note that this is not appointment based so you can arrive at your convenience. The event will be running from 4:30 to 6:30. More information has been sent to Year 9 families in a separate letter.

See you on Thursday 7th March.

Year 9 Careers

YEAR 9 OPTIONS AND EVENTS

If your child is currently in Year 9 then you will be aware that the process of selecting GCSE subjects is fast approaching. There will be a series of information sessions delivered by our curriculum teams to accompany the Option Evenings.

Year 9 parents/carers options evening takes place on **Thursday 7th March 2024**. During this evening, curriculum staff and Mr Jordan (Careers and Employability Coach) will be on hand to answer any questions that you may have regarding the process and which subjects could support your child's career aspirations.

Year 9 students will also be taking part in a CLF wide event called Raising Aspirations on Wednesday 6th March 2024. This day will consist of workshops, talks and activities designed to support the students achieve their career goals and aspirations.

There is a huge focus on key employability skills that are fully transferable whichever sector they may be considering.



18/01/24 U14 Girls Basketball

This evening our U14 basketballers went to play a tournament at City Academy. There were a total of 7 teams entered, and it was a great evening. All students gave 100% effort, and really enjoyed themselves. Overall, we came 6th coming away with some clear areas to focus on, but all the students are really looking forward to our up-and-coming matches, watch this space!

23/01/24 U14 Girls Football

Amazing result for our U14 girls today! Played away against City Academy Bristol, final score 11-1!

Very proud of our girls teamwork and leadership, special mention to Eva-Simone for being captain and working out the subs for the whole match!

Esme P, Polly P, Esther C, Isla W, Ember W, Imogen E, Eva-Simone M, Connie T, Neve C, Tayla B-T, Cleo G, Ella H, Isabella H, Isabelle W and Ellie-Mae O.

Year 10 News



Mr Leahy
Associate
Assistant
Principal.
SLT link



Ms Cicero
Academic
Year
Lead



Mr Sanday
Pastoral
Year
Leader

Contact details: bbayear10team@clf.uk

Year 10 recently sat their first set of mock exams under the protocols they will face in the final GCSE exams. We are very pleased to report the exemplary behaviour and attitude of all the students during their time in the exam halls.

Students were also given the learning opportunity of sitting a “walking, talking mock” for each of the core subjects to prepare them for the real exam but also to give them insight in how to maximise the marks they could achieve.

Students have also received assemblies on the impact of exam stress on mental health delivered by the school counsellors. The PowerPoint for this is available on Show My Homework and contains many useful contacts for those who are feeling the pressure.

Year 10 Careers

Envision Programme

Ten Year 9 students have been taking part in a careers programme over the past 13 weeks with an organisation called Envision.

They took part in a range of workshops, had business mentoring from colleagues at Simmons and Simmons in their Bristol office and took part in a regional final held at the University Of Bristol.

The students had to present to a panel of judges and teams from another school. We did not come away with the team of the year accolade however, the students should be incredibly proud of their achievements during the programme.

As a group, they did not know each other particularly well and the thought of getting up to present to an audience of over 60 students and adults seemed a distant dream. They worked and supported each other and delivered on the day receiving some fantastic feedback from peers and judges.

Each one graduated from the Envision programme and developed the key skills in presentation, communication, teamwork, and creativity.

A huge thank you goes out to the students, James (Envision) and the business mentors at Simmons and Simmons for all their work and support.

Year 10 Work Experience

It is not too late! Please ensure that if your child has secured work experience that they have completed the Microsoft form on show my homework and their school emails. This information is crucial to enable us to start the process of checking the suitability of the placement.

The deadline was set for Friday 9th February, but I will accept forms until the 28th February however the placements will all need to be signed off before they are authorised.

I will also share out a range of opportunities including many virtual experiences that can be accessed and recorded as their work experience. For those who do not secure placements they will be expected in school as normal.



24/01/2024

The Year 10 football team after producing an impressive 10-0 win against local CLF rivals Bristol Met.

1/2/2024

The Year 10s have now followed up this win with a 2-1 win over Oasis John Williams.

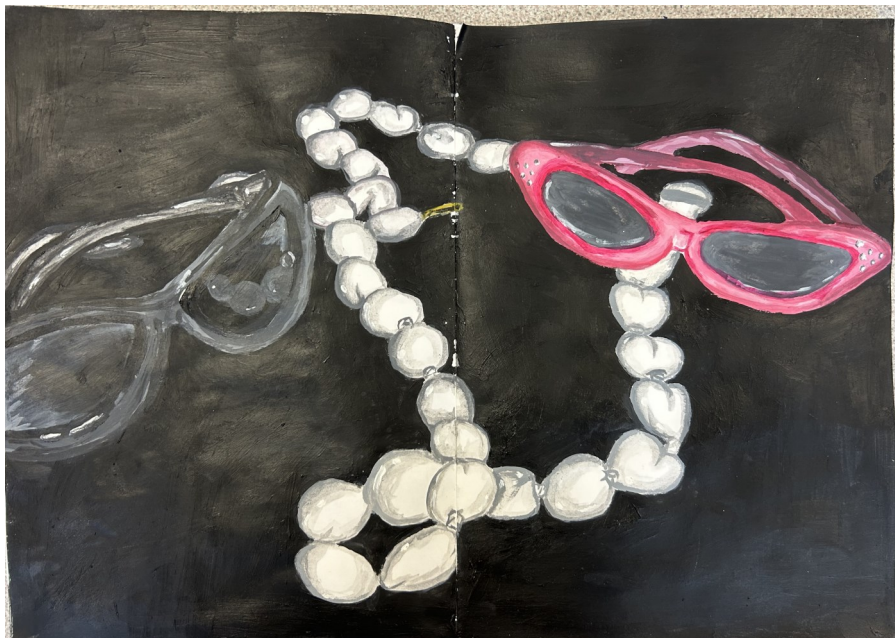
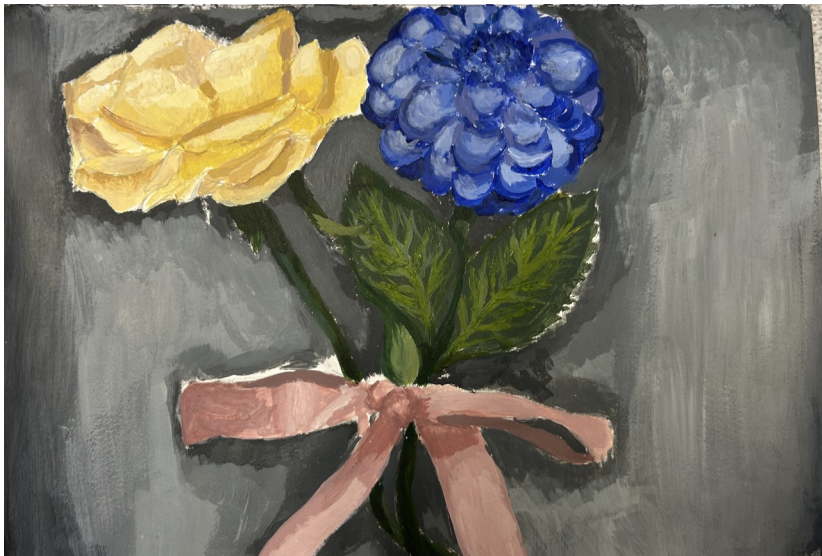
Hopefully this winning streak can continue.

Year 10 Art

This term the Year 10 GCSE students have been developing their painting skills with acrylic paint. Students selected an artist to be inspire their work and then developed their ideas into these paintings. Here are some examples of the fantastic work from Mrs Darby's class.



Year 10 Art Continued



Year 11 News



Ms Abbi Bainton
Associate
Assistant
Principal

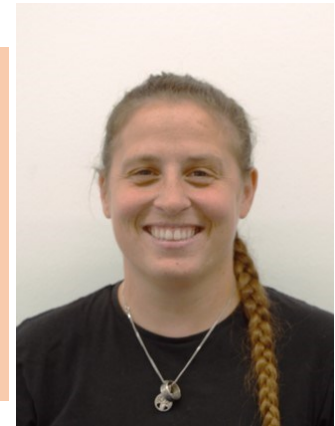


Mr Iwan Jones
Academic
Year
Leader

Ms Clare
Buckingham
Pastoral
Year
Leader



Ms Heatherstone
Pastoral
Support
Assistant



Hello all parents and carers.

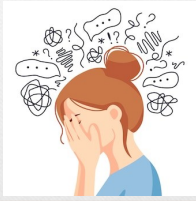
We are the support team for Year 11 students. We can be contacted via the group school email address of BBAYear11Team@clf.uk

Our School Counsellor Ms Chowdhury ran assemblies to Year 10 and 11 on stress/anxiety and how to look after mental health/wellbeing. The presentation was posted on their show my homework to access for further support. The presentation contains a number of links/suggestions for students to access for supporting their mental health. It will also be put on our website for students/parents to access.

The build up to exams can be stressful, do look at the information in the presentation or contact the school counsellors or the year team for further help advice and guidance.

Support

How to manage stress/anxiety and look after mental health/wellbeing



Zakera Chowdhury
Academy Counsellor



Mental and emotional health resources



Helplines

- **Childline** call 0800 1111 / [email](#) / [online chat](#) (under 18s)
- **Samaritans** call 116 123 / [email](#) / [visit](#) (all-age)
- **CALM** call 0800 58 58 58 / [webchat](#) (all-age)
- **Switchboard:** call 0300 330 0630 / [online chat](#) / email chris@switchboard.lgbt (LGBTQ+, all-age)
- **Shout** text Shout to 85258 (all-age)
- **The Mix** call 0808 808 4994 / [email](#) / [online chat](#) (under 25s)
- **Brook** call 0117 929 0090/Website: www.brook.org.uk/bristol
- **Kooth** online support/text/Website: www.kooth.com

Year 11 Destinations And Mocks

Good luck to our Year 11 students who will be taking their final mock examinations before the real GCSE exams in May.

It is crucial that they have secured strong destinations for September as they are now required to remain in some form of education or training until the age of 18. <https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

Please remind students to check emails, to accept offers, attend interviews and secure plan A, B and maybe even C. Those applying for apprenticeships should also secure a full-time Post 16 provision as a backup.

I will be sharing the intended destination information with Bristol City Council at the end of term 5. If any students/parents/carers have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr Jordan directly via email.

NCS Awareness Assembly

We have had an assembly delivered by the NCS for students interested in taking part in the summer programme. A letter has been sent via email for those interested in taking part.

The cost for 5 days is a maximum of £95 , this covers transport, accommodation, food and all activities. **Eligible students in receipt of free school meals, EHCP, young carers and other qualifying criteria may be entitled to this completely free. That's right— £0!**

It is a great chance to add enrichment to their CV, spend a week with friends, meet new people and just have some fun after their GCSEs. NCS graduates have also gone on to work for NCS in school holidays.

More information including the bursary and FAQ's can be accessed via the website here <https://wearencs.com/>

If there are other questions or concerns, please contact NCS directly and they will be able to answer your query.

Enrichment

STEAM Club

This term in STEAM Club our students looked at Forensic Science Techniques, and were involved in practical work where they had the opportunity to put into practice some of these techniques.

Forensic Science involved a range of activities, from having a go at fingerprinting, and identifying fingerprint

patterns as Forensic Scientists would do, to creating blood splatter patterns to visualise how different injuries or impacts will create different blood patterns.

Forensic Scientists can use the patterns to determine the events that took place at the scene of a crime.

Students also had a look at X rays, and what substances are able to be seen in X rays, as well as trying to identify anatomical elements of the X rays. The students really enjoyed all the activities, and engaged in brilliant discussions and questions that further enriched their learning.'



From STEAM Club

Enrichment



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh participants are in the process of completing their final weeks of training before they embark on the expedition. They have had sessions on erecting tents, using Trangia's (cookers), map reading and first aid.

Now is the time to finalise plans for what food to eat and what you really need to carry for 6 hours a day!

Expeditions will take place to the final weeks of the coming term. It's early in the year so make sure you plan for a cold night!

Astronomy Club (Year 11)

The participants have spent the term looking at cosmology, the study of the origins of the universe. We looked at galaxy types, their development, how far they are away and how fast they are moving. This work was originally done by Edwin Hubble and led to the development of the "Big Bang" Theory as well as providing us with an age for our universe.

They are close to the end of their course now and have only a few bits of content, mocks and revision to go. Its been a long three years but, I hope, worth it.

Mr Smerdon

Term 4 Enrichment Clubs

Days	Enrichment	Years	Time	Where	Who
Monday	Football	All boys	3:15-4:15	PE	PE
	Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze and Silver)	Year 9 – Bronze Year 10 - Silver	3:15 – 4:15	SC2 SC3	Ms Jackson and Mr Smerdon
	Rugby	7-9 Girls	3:15 – 4:15	PE	Ms Holmes
	Y7 Textiles Club	Year 7	3:00 – 4:00	GT7	Ms Simmons
	Basketball club	Boys 7-8	3:15 – 4:15	PE	PE, Ms Law and Ms Williams
	Football	All girls	3.15-4.15	PE	PE
	Arabic club	Year 7 and 8	2:30 – 4:00	Sc4	Ms Tazaoui
Tuesday	Adventurers' guild (D and D)	All	3:05 – 4:05	S12A/B	H Greensmith, Mr Thorne and V Stevenson
	Lego Club	Year 7	3:05 – 4:05	S5B	Humanities
	Skateboarding	Must sign up first	3.054.05	PE Back play	Ms Gage
	Chess Club	All	3.05-4.05	S9	Mr Fraser, Mr Duncan
	Girls Basketball	All	3:15 – 4:15	PE	PE
	Boys Basketball	Y7-Y8	3:15-4:15	PE	PE
	Cheerleading		3:15-4:15	Dance studio	Ms Chaplin
Thursday	UKMT	Year 9 - 10	3:05 – 4:05	F6B	Ms Harrison
	Crochet Club	All	3:05- 4:05	GT7	Quinn
	Board game club	all	3.05-4.05	s12b	Ms Clovis
	Engineering	Year 10-11	3:05-4:05	GT8	Ms Bush
	GCSE Art Club	Year 10-11	3:05-4:05	SC2	Ms Darby
	STEAM	Year 7-9	3:05- 4:05	FS9 / GT1 / GC1	Ms Forcina and Ms Bush Ms Shakil
Friday	Retro Games Club	All	3:05 – 4:05	SC3	Mr Mead
	Boys Basketball	Y9-Y11	3:15-4:15	PE	PE
	Astronomy GCSE	Year 11	3:05- 4:05	FS5	Mr Smerdon

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.



MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.



LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.



DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.



READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.



Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday