

# Bristol Brunel Academy

## Termly Newsletter

December 2025



## From The Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

### **UNIFORM**

As part of our ongoing Student Voice strategy, I recently met with a group of students to discuss aspects of our school uniform. One of the topics raised was the current rule that hijabs must be black. Our student community expressed a desire for more flexibility and requested permission to wear hijabs in different colours. Following these discussions, I gathered staff feedback and consulted with our Chair of the Academy Council. I am pleased to share that we have agreed to update our uniform policy which allows students to wear hijabs in any single colour (not patterned). Durags and bonnets will remain black to align with our uniform standards.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the following uniform expectations:

- Ties are compulsory.
- Leggings are not permitted.
- Students must wear a black BBA logo'd or plain V-neck jumper. Other jumpers or hoodies are not allowed.
- Skirts need to be a professional length
- A reminder that the blazer is an optional part of the uniform.

### **PRICE INCREASE**

We have been advised by Bristol City Council that the price of a meal deal will increase to £2.88, in line with general food price inflation. This takes effect when we return in January.

### **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

A huge thank you to all students and staff who have given up their time and have taken part in extra-curricular activities this term. Your participation and attendance at clubs, rehearsals and fixtures after school make a real difference to our school community. I also want to congratulate all the students who performed in the Winter Festival this week. It was a wonderful showcase of talent from Year 7 through to Year 11. Special recognition goes to our incredible "behind the scenes" team who manage the tech and organise props. You may not be in the spotlight, but your hard work is truly appreciated.

### **ATTENDANCE**

As you know, we have had a real push on attendance these last two terms. The reason for this is because we know how closely attendance and achievement are linked to improved confidence, wellbeing and being part of our community. Thank you for all your support, I hope that you have managed to steer clear of the illness that has been doing the rounds.

### **STAFF LEAVING**

We say our goodbyes to Alex Pearce and Gabby Ahmed, who will be going onto pastures new in January. We would like to thank them for all that they have done for both staff and students, and of course wish them the very best of luck in their new roles.

Have a fantastic break! We look forward to welcoming our students back to BBA on Tuesday 6th January.

# Key Information

Key dates for Term 3: (Monday 6th January - Friday 13th February 2026)

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Monday 5th January 2026 | INSET day - students are not in school               |
| Tuesday 6th January     | First day of term                                    |
| Thursday 5th February   | Year 9 Parents' Evening and Learning Support Evening |
| Wednesday 11th February | Year 8 HPV vaccinations                              |
| Friday 13th February    | Last day of term                                     |

## Year Team contact details:

| Year group: | Email:               | Contact number: |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Year 7      | bbayear7team@clf.uk  | 07599101207     |
| Year 8      | bbayear8team@clf.uk  | 07599101208     |
| Year 9      | bbayear9team@clf.uk  | 07599101209     |
| Year 10     | bbayear10team@clf.uk | 07599101211     |
| Year 11     | bbayear11team@clf.uk | 07599101203     |

## Support during the holiday season from Kooth.

At Kooth, we know that the Christmas holidays can be a challenging time for some young people. Changes in routine, time away from friends, or worries can feel overwhelming. Kooth is here to listen, no problem is too big or too small. If something is on a young person's mind, we want to hear it.

Kooth is commissioned by NHS Care Boards to provide free, safe, and confidential mental health support. Young people aged 10–18 can log on to the Kooth website and speak to a trained mental health practitioner throughout the Christmas break

Simply create a free account at:

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

# Term 2

This term we proudly hosted our very first 'BBA Showcase'. Past and current students from art, photography, textiles, and product design came together to exhibit their incredible work. The event was a fantastic success, with a great turnout of students and parents/carers who were clearly impressed by the creativity and talent on display.

A huge thank you to Kealy and the Art and Photography team for organising such a brilliant exhibition, and to Abbi and the DT team for their valuable contribution.

Please enjoy some photos from the evening below.



# Term 2

## Music Department:

It has been an incredibly busy term in the music department, with rehearsals for the production of Return to the Forbidden Planet well underway, a Winter Festival taking place with over 50 student involved as well as performances by BBA students at Ashton Gate for a Bristol Bears match.

## Ashton Gate

BBA students Angel ( Year 11) and Taiye ( Year 8) brought their talents to Ashton Gate stadium on Sunday 14th December as part of the CLF takeover of the Champions Cup Bristol Bears march. Taiye (DJ Jems) played a set in the concourse before the game, bringing professionalism and musicality to the Bears' Den. At half time, walked onto the pitch with style and an assured manner, and gave a belting rendition of "Set Fire to the Rain" by Adele to the whole stadium. No mean feat for a school student performing for the first time with in ear monitors to over 10,000 people! Well done to both students for representing themselves and BBA so well.



## Winter Festival

A celebration of the performing arts took place on Thursday 11th December, with a variety of solo acts, duets, trios, full bands, dancers and poets. Superbly hosted by year 11 students Ella and Eva in their last Winter Festival, the night showcased the talent here at BBA. Students have been spending their own time rehearsing for the show independently which resulted in a heartwarming and joyous evening. Highlights included Leia and Martha performing a song from Wicked which left few with dry eyes in the hall. Debutants for the evening, Aria and Oriole, were superb, as well as Ki Bridges festive rendition of Rockin' Robin by the Jackson 5. We also had an opportunity to see two songs and dances from the upcoming musical "Return to the Forbidden Planet" which is taking place from March 2nd -5th 2026.

## Bristol Beacon

Just a heads up that we will be taking a large number of students to Bristol Beacon on Wednesday 11th February so that they can perform in the Main Hall. The concert will take place from 1730 and will involve a variety of acts from all schools in the CLF. There will be an approximate 100 strong choir made up of students performing at the end so watch this space for ticket information.

We value all your support.



Well done all students this term on your creativity and hard work. We look forward to welcoming you back in January for a busy term in music and the performing arts. Wishing you a warm and joyful winter break

Mr Salida and the Performing Arts Team.

# Diwali Celebrations

Staff, students and parents came together to celebrate the Hindu festival of Diwali.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a major five-day festival celebrated by millions of Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists globally, symbolizing the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance, often marking new beginnings, a new year, and welcoming prosperity.

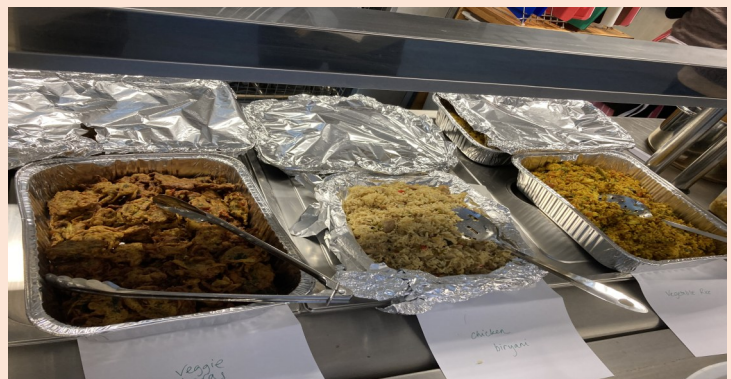
Celebrations involve lighting clay lamps (diyas) and candles, decorating homes, sharing sweets and festive

foods, exchanging gifts, wearing

new clothes, creating Rangoli art, and setting off fireworks, centred around the new moon for maximum brightness.



A massive thanks to Ms Kaur for leading and organising the celebration.



# School Therapy Dog

**We are excited to announce a wonderful new addition to our school community,  
Goose, our School Therapy Dog!**

BBA is proud to be introducing and supporting a school Therapy Dog with the expert support of PAWS Therapy Dog Training, the UK's leading Therapy Dog training provider.

We chose PAWS due to their specialism in successfully training dogs to support children and young people in several settings across the country.

You may already be aware that Therapy Dogs have been proven to enhance the well-being of students by providing emotional support and reducing stress and anxiety, as well as teaching important skills such as empathy and responsibility. PAWS Therapy Dogs have an incredible track record of boosting academic progress, improving attendance and motivation for learning!

We are confident that the introduction of a Therapy Dog will bring numerous benefits to our school community, from providing comfort and companionship through to fostering emotional growth and learning.

We look forward to sharing the positive outcomes of having Goose in school and hope you will follow along the journey!



# Term 3 Attendance Challenge

## Dress Down for Turning Up!

### Term 3 Attendance Challenge!

- Year groups that show the **biggest attendance improvement** over a set period (e.g., two weeks) will earn a **non-uniform day on the last day on Term 3**.
- Focus is on **progress and effort**, not just perfection.
- Every student can help their year group succeed by **turning up every day**.
- Goal: **Climb the attendance ladder** and enjoy well-deserved dress-down days!

## Dress Down for Turning Up!



Bristol Brunel  
Academy



# School Production Update

## School Production Update: Return to the Forbidden Planet

Rehearsals for this year's school production are in full swing, and the cast is bringing the show's sci-fi energy to life with great enthusiasm! Lines, songs, and choreography are all coming together brilliantly.



Behind the scenes, our team is hard at work too—the monster tentacles are taking shape wonderfully, and they're looking fantastically fun (and a little bit fearsome!)

Excitement is building fast. Stay tuned for more updates as we blast toward opening night.

Tickets on sale soon!



# Year 7

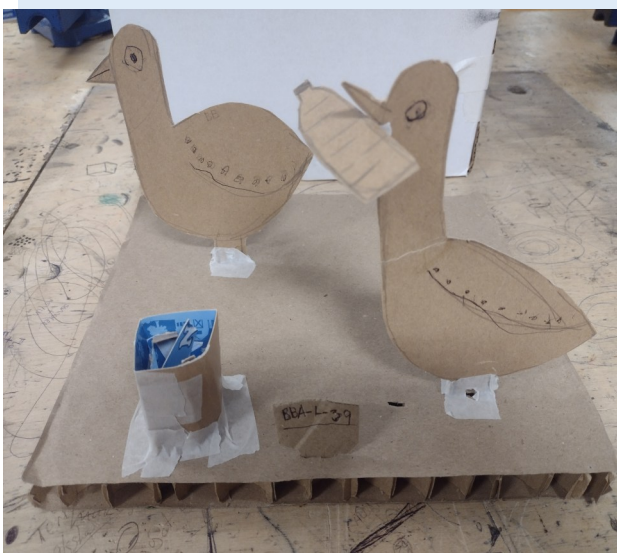
Contact details: [BBAYear7Team@clf.uk](mailto:BBAYear7Team@clf.uk)

## UCL Ocean Health Challenge

Our Year 7 students all had the chance to learn about the impact of plastic on our oceans and come up with ECO solutions to prevent plastic getting into them, building models to demonstrate their ideas.



A former BBA Science teacher, Mr Campbell, led the sessions and will submit all our competition entries and we should hear in March whether we have won.



If we do, the winning student will win £500 and as a school, we will win £2000.

Students were buzzing at the chance of winning the money and had a lot of fun building their models.

# Year 7 Netball Festival

12/11/25

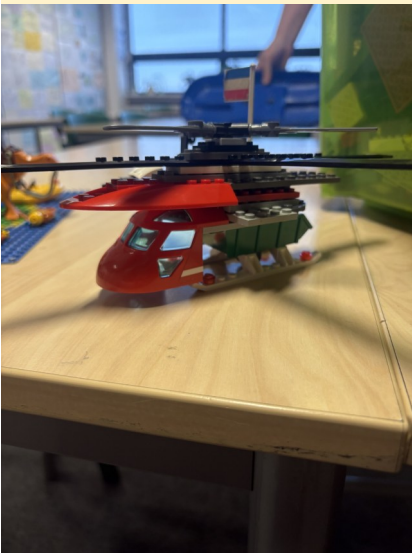
Year 7s took part in a netball festival at Trinity Academy. They had a great afternoon. They came away with 2 wins, a draw and 2 losses. They put in a huge effort in all of their games and played with such positivity and sportsmanship. The girls were polite and kind to all staff and students they encountered, and it was a pleasure to take them on a fixture representing BBA.



Player of the match was given in every match and they were awarded to Evie x2, Nolly, Betsy, Shontaya and Ruby.

## Year 7 Lego Club

Lego Club is one of many clubs open to year 7 students. **As with all our clubs it is free .**



Lego is a fantastic toy that has stood the test of time due its simplicity and the infinite number of projects and designs that can be made. It allows students to express themselves in so many ways.



# Year 7 Black History Month Art Competition.



## B:M2025

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
ART COMPETITION  
Y7 HIGHLY COMMENDED

Ayesha A  
EJ Orquita  
Lawk K  
Daniella O  
Kalli M  
Sameeha I  
Milla C  
Elsie RC  
Olivia R  
Harley A  
Rosa DiM  
Yasmin G



Please collect your  
Certificate from Mrs McBride in SA2



## B:M2025

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Congratulations to the Y7 winner:

**URSULA NADOLNY**

With her absolutely fantastic  
portrait of Fatou Samba  
From the pop group Black Swan!

# Year 8

Contact details: [BBAYear8Team@clf.uk](mailto:BBAYear8Team@clf.uk)

5/11/25

Another stunning evening of rugby from our Year 8 boys who once again represented our community in stunning fashion. This evening saw them take in a Bristol Schools rugby festival at Whitehall RFC.

The boys produced a battling display in a defeat to Bristol Free School but claimed two deserving wins against Bristol Met and Oasis Academy Brislington. The squad showed tremendous character and enjoyment in their efforts this evening.

Special mentions to U Ogbuyana, H Cheney, Z Kovacs, L Banks, F Seffer and F Nowacki for representing other schools.

Players of the match awards going to Zyaan and Filip for their excellent attacking threat. Filip's final try of the day a notable highlight as he collected his own chip off his boot laces to run it home from his own 22 meter line.

Mr R Meredith



26/11/25

## Netball festival results

Year 8 played five games with plenty of goals made. I was very impressed with the one handed catches with one foot landing from Tiabre, Faith, Martha and Sumaya.

Results were mixed but good overall with 3 wins, a draw and only one loss. Players of the matches were shared between Martha (2) and Faith (3), clearly stars of the future.

Year 8 Netball Team

Lilianna J, Victoria A, Akira K, Leonor TMC, Leen A, Tiabre C, Martha R, Faith N, Sumaya M

# Year 9

Contact details: [BBAYear9Team@clf.uk](mailto:BBAYear9Team@clf.uk)

14/11/25

Our Year 9 students completely immersed themselves in a fantastic opportunity that was provided by Kansas City Chiefs at the Bristol Bears High Performance Centre.

The coaches were incredible and, once again, our BBA community was represented in an outstanding manner.

Thank you to everyone for your support for this event, it's certainly appreciated by the way our students have fully bought into the whole experience.



# MFL Enrichment—GCHQ NLC

On the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> November, groups of year 9 students from BBA took part in the GCHQ National Languages Competition.

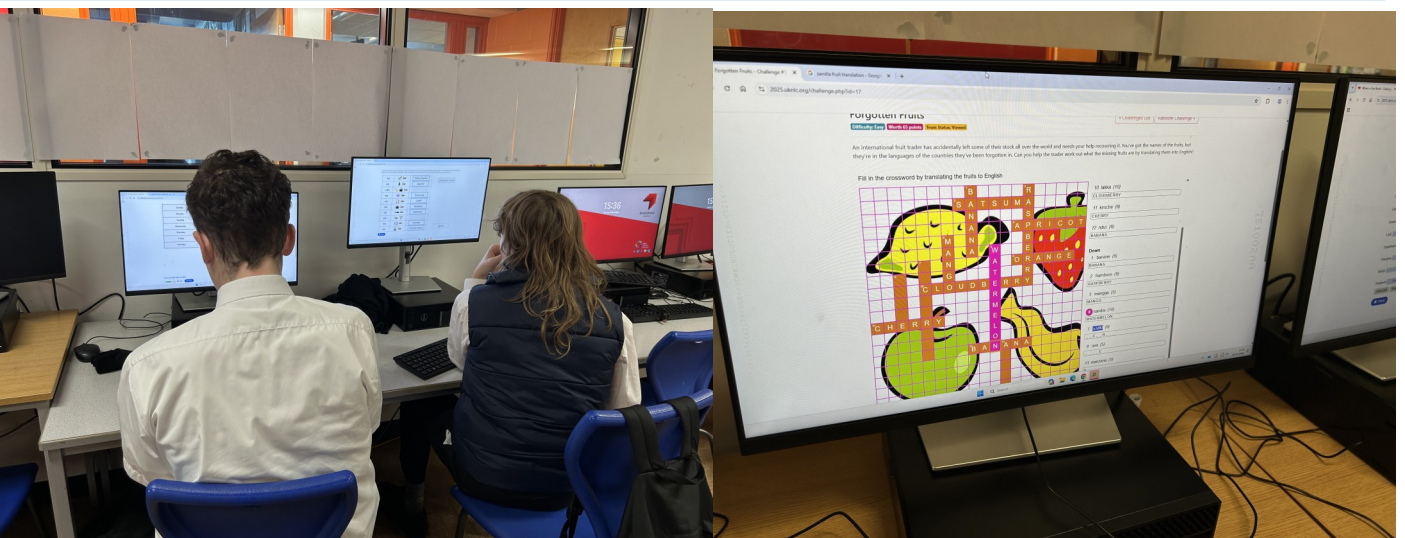


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*GCHQ is the UK's intelligence, security and cyber agency. Their mission is to keep the country safe. GCHQ highly values language skills, so each year it runs the National Language Competition. This is a virtual competition where teams from schools around the UK compete against each other to solve language-based puzzles and score points.*

This was the third year that BBA students took part. The MFL department was so pleased with the dedication that the students demonstrated, giving up their own time after school to compete, develop their resilience, and employability skills. All the challenges were incredibly difficult, requiring teams to work together and think outside the box.

The winning team within BBA was made up of Alice and Alicia. Congratulations! Well done to all those who took part, including Eli, Diandrew, Kit, Will, Jackson, Zaire, Nate, Jordan and Fleur, all these students have been nominated for their BBA green professional badge by Team MFL. We can't wait to run the competition again next year!



# Year 10

Contact details: [BBAYear10Team@clf.uk](mailto:BBAYear10Team@clf.uk)

## Geography Harbourside Field Trip

3-5/11/25

Our overall aim was to see if the regeneration of Bristol Harbourside has been successful.

Students went down for half a day and had to collect a range of primary data to answer their aim. They collected questionnaire responses of the public's opinions on the regeneration. They also completed an environmental quality survey across four different sites, alongside observations and a field sketch of the reed beds which help to improve the environment.

Students now use this data to evaluate their enquiry and can write about it in their Paper three exam



# Year 11

Contact details: [BBAYear11Team@clf.uk](mailto:BBAYear11Team@clf.uk)

## KS4 Drama Students Shine on Theatre Trip to Bristol Old Vic

Our KS4 Drama students had an unforgettable experience this week when they travelled to the iconic Bristol Old Vic to see the spectacular production of *Treasure Island*. As part of their Section B exam preparation, students were given the opportunity to watch live theatre of the highest quality—and they embraced it brilliantly.

From start to finish, the group were fantastic ambassadors for our school. Staff at the venue praised their engagement, enthusiasm, and exemplary behaviour. We could not be more proud of how they represented us throughout the trip.

The show itself was a real treat: a five-star, full-scale musical adventure packed with energy, humour, and breath-taking stagecraft. With soaring songs, swashbuckling action, and an inventive twist on the classic story, *Treasure Island* captured the imagination of every student. Many commented on how inspiring it was to see such creative storytelling brought to life on stage—an experience that will no doubt support and enrich their exam work.

Unbeknownst to our students a reviewer from the Times was sat behind them and gave them a great review.

**“ The kids were amazingly well behaved!! Great singers too! ”**

A huge well done to all the students involved. Their passion for drama, both in and out of the classroom, continues to impress. We look forward to seeing how this exciting trip fuels their future performances!



# Enrichment Clubs Term 3

| Day       | Club                             | Forwho            | Staff                        | Room                   | Times    |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Monday    | Duke of Edinburgh Bronze         | Year 9            | Ms Jackson / Mr Smerdon      | SC2/3                  | 3:10-4pm |
|           | School Production Rehearsals     | All               | Various (Mr Salida)          | Main Hall              | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Magic The Gathering Club         | All               | Ms Smart                     | F6b                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Culture Club                     | All               | Ms Korimbocus                | S8a                    | 3:10-4pm |
| Tuesday   | LGBTQ+ Club                      | All               | Ms Kightley                  | FS8                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Further Maths Club               | Year 11           | Ms Harrison-Wan Mr Flannigan | F5                     | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Science Club                     | All               | Ms Grimes /Ali/Tate          | FS7                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Football                         | Year 7 and 8 Boys | Mr Meredith                  | PE                     | 3:10-4pm |
| Wednesday | Football                         | Year 7-11 Girls   | Ms Jackson                   | PE                     | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Manga Art Club (alternate weeks) | all               | Ms Phillips                  | Art Dept               | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Adventurers Guild (D&D)          | All               | Ms Greensmith                | S8a/b                  | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Creative Writing Club            | All               | Ms Payne                     | SC1/ Library           | 3:10-4pm |
| Thursday  | No Clubs                         |                   |                              |                        |          |
|           | Rugby                            | Yr7-11 Girls      | Ms BGA                       | PE                     | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Girls Basketball                 | All Girls         | Ms Payton                    | Sports hall            | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Engineering club                 | KS4               | Ms Bush                      | GT8                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Textiles Club                    | All               | Ms Simmons                   | GT7/8                  | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Conversational Spanish Club      | Year 9-11         | Ms Brown                     | S2b                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Politics Club                    | All               | Mr Jenkins                   | S4                     | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Lego Club                        | Year 7-8          | Ms Fuorvito                  | S5b                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | ART Club                         | Year 10-11        | Ms Darby                     | SA3                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | British Sign Language Club       | All               | Ms Hawkins                   | GT6                    | 3:10-4pm |
| Friday    | Mindfulness drawing              | all               | Ms Forcina                   | FS1                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | School Production Rehearsals     | All               | Mr Salida et Al              | Main Hall              | 3:10-5pm |
|           | Performance Technology Club      | All               | Mr Szmidt / Mr Wade          | Main hall control room | 3-4:30pm |
|           | Crochet Club                     | All               | Ms Kightley                  | IS4                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Astronomy Club                   | Year 10           | Mr Smerdon / Symons          | FS5                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Retro-Games Club                 | All               | Mr Mead                      | SC2/3                  | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Basketball                       | Year 10/11 Boys   | Mr Ngai                      | Sports hall            | 3:10-4pm |
|           | ART Club                         | Year 10-11        | Ms Darby                     | SA3                    | 3:10-4pm |
|           | Table Tennis Club                | All               | Mr Sperring                  | Dance studio           | 3:10-4pm |