



Newsletter Summer 2020

A Message from Head of School

Mr Gowell.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, I have been encouraged by the increase in student attendance over terms 5 and 6. We as a school have worked hard in getting as many students in as possible and will continue to do so.

The school has tried to maintain a sense of calm and normality throughout this period-providing a safe haven for everyone, given the world is an anxious place right now. I'd also like to reassure parents/carers that as we build towards a full reopening, the Local Authority has deemed us completely covid secure. So you can have confidence in our ability to keep everyone safe come September.

It was great to see some of our year 11s at their leavers gathering and wish you every success for the future. Although the exam season did not take place teachers have submitted predicted grades to the exam board and results will be available on the 20th August. Despite the challenges I am immensely proud of all our year 11s. Remember, we are a school for life and will do everything we can to support your transition to college or employment in these unprecedented times.

I wish to offer my personal thanks to the parents and carers who have supported us throughout the year. And also for your understanding during this crisis. However I must extend my final gratitude to our amazing staff team. Throughout this crisis, you have kept calm, professional and have gone above and beyond. That has meant we have remained open for all our students and where that wasn't possible maintained regular contact.

As the country opens itself I'd like to wish everyone a great summer and look forward to seeing all our students back in September.

Best Wishes,

Mr Gowell



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17th July

Last day of term

20th July

INSET DAY

20th August

GCSE Results Day

1st September

INSET DAY

2nd September

INSET DAY

3rd September

INSET DAY—Covid -19

Preparation Day

4th September

INSET DAY—Covid-19

Preparation Day

7th September

KS3 ONLY—Transition Day

8th September

KS4 ONLY—Transition Day

9th September

All Students return to school

17th September

School Photographer

Year 6 Transitions

Our Year 7 students, HCL and LBP prepared a presentation for their younger peers in Year 6 in Woodstock Primary School. In their presentation, they spoke about life at Bristol Gateway introducing a typical day of the school, rewards system and lessons. They even filmed a virtual tour around Bristol Gateway showing the on-site facilities and what the students would expect when they join us in September. The boys presented this with confidence and answered all the questions perfectly. They were true role models for our school. Well done boys!

Year 6 students from Woodstock Primary School, LP, LG, KM, TH and BM joined us this term. They have integrated really well into Bristol Gateway School community and they are all working very hard in their lessons. It is great to see how well they have handled the change, particularly in these difficult times. Well done to all of them! We can't wait to see their progress and contribution to the wider school in September!



Message from Head of Key Stage 3

KS3 Students, Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a very unusual academic year, it is important to reflect on the wonderful job you have been doing to stay safe and keep learning under these difficult circumstances. As we know, it has been a very stressful and chaotic time for many with huge changes, both in school and in the wider community. Our students have been asked to rise to the challenge of learning from home and/or following stringent social distancing procedures at school. These are unprecedented times and I would like to express my gratitude to all the parents and families that we work with for supporting us and students to continue to learn and develop at home or in school 'bubbles'. I would also like to thank all the staff in KS3 and across the school who have worked tirelessly through the pandemic providing work packs and online learning for our students and who have devoted so much of their time to making phone calls, arranging zoom meetings and lessons and carrying out home visits to make sure that our students continued to feel part of the school community, even when they weren't physically at school. Most of all, I would like to thank our students who have adapted to the current crises by engaging with us in a variety of new ways. They have been flexible and adaptable and have given us as staff the motivation that we needed during this difficult time to continue teaching and supporting them in a variety of ways.

I wish you all a relaxing and restorative summer and we can't wait to welcome you back in September!

Rachel Lynch

Head of Key Stage 3

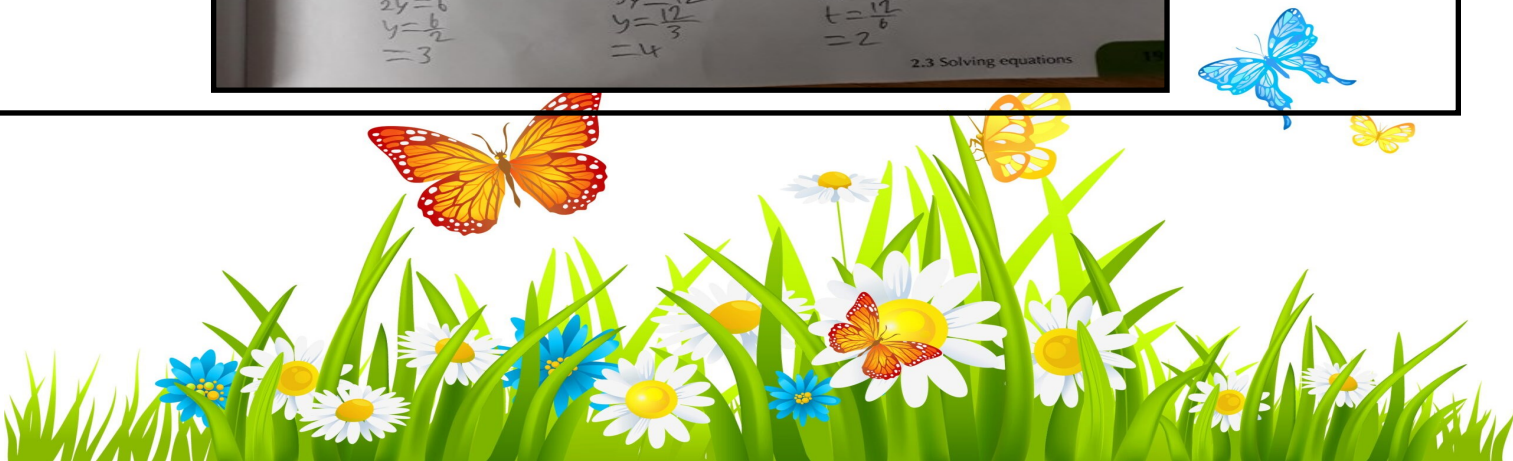
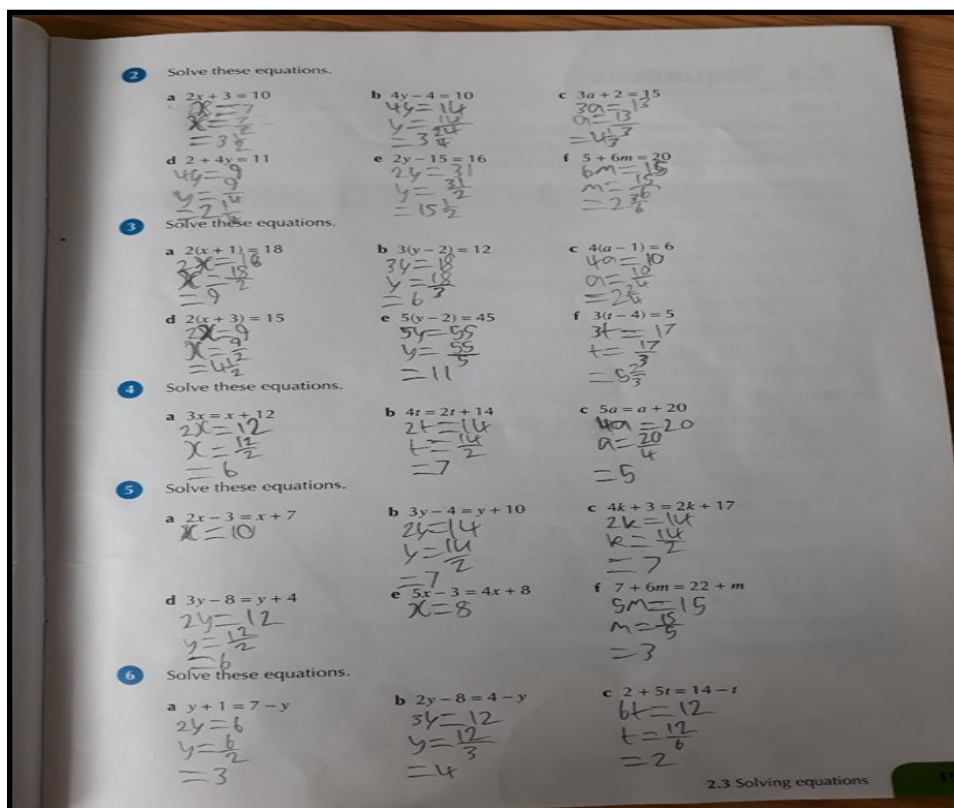


Learning from home

Due to the current situation, children across the country have mostly been learning at home. BGS staff have given out work packs and put work online for students to access and lots of it has been completed independently at home or in school by those students who have still been coming in regularly. We understand it can be very difficult to be motivated and resilient to work at home independently, especially when learning new things that would normally be taught in class by a teacher!

Reese in year 8 is one such student who has been fantastic in keeping up with his learning every day, sticking to his timetable and completing the work set to the best of his ability. Where really tricky topics have come up he has persevered, searching out videos and explanations on the internet to help him. He has also engaged brilliantly with 1:1 lessons on Zoom with his maths teacher. It has worked well as he is able to share his work visually with his teacher, and his teacher can show him things to help whilst explaining verbally at the same time.

Zoom is a safe way to have face-to-face video call meetings, set up easily through email and accessible on laptop or phone. All staff are able to use Zoom and will be using it more in the coming weeks and months to keep in contact with students unable to come to school. If there are aspects of learning that students would like help with at home, please suggest that your regular tutor phone calls could be held on Zoom instead.



Pride Month



Every year, during the month of June, the LGBT community celebrates in a number of different ways. Across the globe, various events are held during this special month as a way of recognising the influence LGBT people have had around the world.

In year 8 we have been creating posters, pride cards and researching influential LGBT people. We have been deeply moved about the history surrounding LGBT and find it hard to understand that even now not all people are accepted for 'being them'



Attendance Matters

As we come to the end of another year I think it is safe to say that it was indeed a very extraordinary year. I do hope you have all managed to keep yourself and your families safe.

Attendance at Bristol Gateway has gone from being a bit of a worry for me to slowly getting there to seeing huge improvements in individual student's attendance. It was a real pleasure to see students who have, in the past struggled with their attendance come to school and participate fully in the curriculum. Then Covid 19 happened and everything came to a standstill.

I understand completely parents and carers not wanting to send their children to school, as when it all started back in March nobody had any idea the extent it would go to. It has been a great achievement on your part to maintain the education of your young people at home, which could not have been easy.

However looking forward I do hope that September will give us all a fresh start and we can get back on track with achieving high attendance for ALL students at Bristol Gateway.

Have a safe and happy summer

Julie Pester

Julie Pester

Parent Support and Attendance manager

FACT: There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement.

Of pupils who miss more than 50 per cent of school only three per cent manage to achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including Maths and English. 73 per cent of pupils who have over 95 per cent attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C.



Message from Deputy Safeguarding Lead Mr Benzie

Dear all,

Throughout lockdown pressures have increased on families and homes. We have tried our best to maintain contact with homes but with this not being possible over the summer we wanted to take this opportunity to remind students and families of help lines or websites where individuals can find support for themselves or others:

Mind – a mental health charity - www.mind.org.uk - 0300 123 3393

Domestic Abuse – National Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0808 2000 247

Child Line – 0800 1111

NHS help line – non urgent medical questions – 111

Police – non urgent police matters – 101

First Response – Bristol Social Care - 0117 903 6444

In emergencies where there is a threat to life call 999 if you cannot speak press 55.

It may be helpful for young people to be aware of the following websites:

Resources to help a friend:

- Childline – Helping a friend
- Mind – A guide for young people on talking to friends and family about how your feeling
- Time-to-change – Supporting someone during Covid 19
- Student Minds – Look after your mate (for university students, but can be helpful for Post 16).

Resources to help yourself:

- Childline – <https://www.childline.org.uk/>
- Kooth - <https://www.kooth.com/index.html>
- Off the Record - <https://www.otrbristol.org.uk/>
- Creative Youth Network - <https://www.creativeyouthnetwork.org.uk/>
- The Mix - <https://www.themix.org.uk/> (online chat or peer group support)



Message from Head of Key Stage 4

It feels very strange to think that the summer holidays are upon us and another academic year has passed. Without the usual GCSE exams, Thorpe park trip or leavers assembly as milestones to wrap up the year, it all feels very different. That being said, it has been excellent seeing many of our pupils regularly attending school through out the last two terms and we have seen the majority of pupils if only for shorter periods of times. This has without a doubt been one of the strangest and challenging periods of time whilst being at the school, but one positive is, it has given us a chance to really focus on next year and making sure we will be ready from the get go in September. As I like to repeatedly say, Key Stage 4 really are two very important years, and ones that will fly by, just ask any of the year 11s that are leaving! With this in mind, I would really urge parents, carers and pupils to make every effort with regards to attendance come September. It's no secret that attendance in Key Stage 4 is much lower than we would like, but it is the pupils themselves who suffer when they come to take their exams or complete courses at the end of year 11. To be put into context, missing a day a week (80% attendance) over two years is the same as missing two and half terms, which is a huge chunk of learning missed.

It is always this time of the year when we have a mixture of emotions from relief, happiness and sadness as we say goodbye to our year 11s. There are a good majority of this year group who have attended the school for all five years and some who have done at least three or four. It has been a shame that their final year has been cut short and they weren't given the opportunity to close this chapter of their education as expected. On behalf of all of us at Bristol Gateway, I wish each and every one of our leavers the very best of luck as they transition to a variety of post 16 provisions.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the parents and carers for their on going support. I believe that a strong, consistent and harmonious relationship between the school and home is one of the key factors for our young people to achieve their best. I Hope you all enjoy the summer holidays as best you can and look forward to working with you all again next year.

Rob Dickins
Head of Key Stage 4

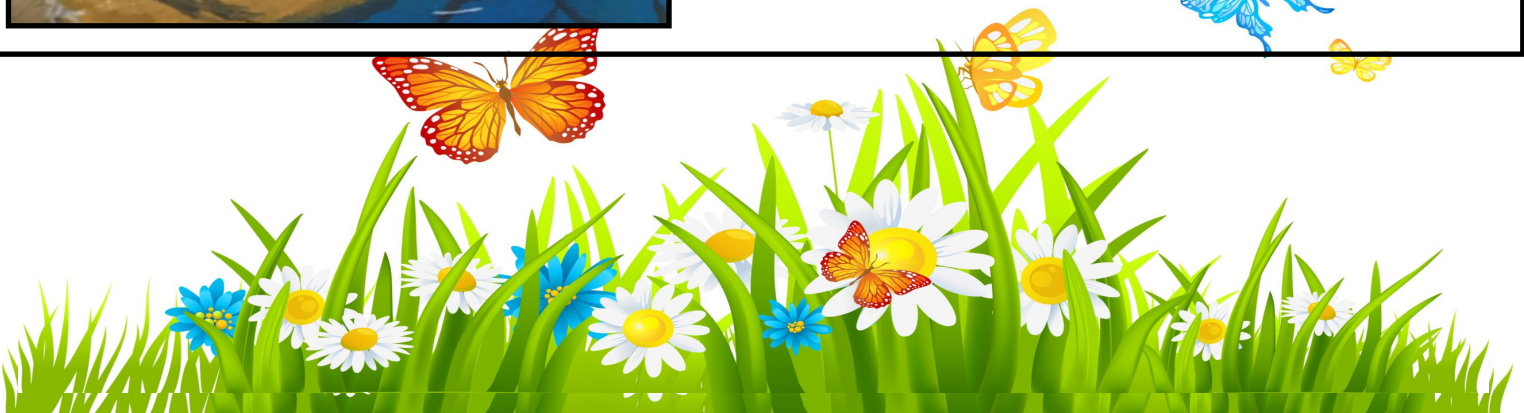
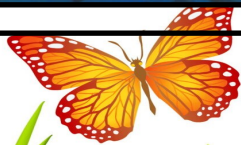
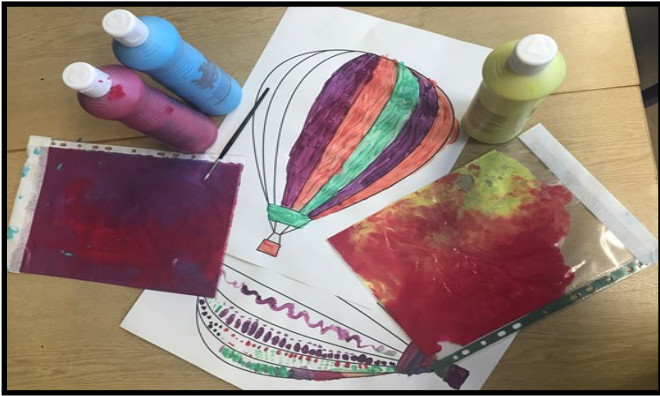


ART

Year 11 art and design students have submitted GCSE work to a digital exhibition at Bristol's public gallery. The gallery's digital exhibition is currently showcasing portraiture work produced by our current year 11 on the RWA website allowing a wider audience, and giving students some support and encouragement at a stressful and confusing time.

We are launching the heart to heart campaign at Bristol Gateway for both students and staff. The campaign at UHBW asks members of the public to personalise hearts and send them to the intensive care unit at the BRI. Matching pairs of hearts, will be offered to families and patients when they are admitted to the unit.

Key Stage 3 students are currently working on a collaborative art project exploring colour theory. To produce a cityscape of the capital. The final piece will be entered into Mayor of Bristol, Bristol's Art in City Hall competition and hopefully exhibited in the public building for all to see .



June 2020

**Bristol Gateway School recognised for its commitment
to helping pupils stay safe online**
***Bristol Gateway School is now a
National Online Safety Certified School***

Bristol Gateway School has successfully completed a comprehensive online safety training programme demonstrating its commitment to keeping children and young people safe online.

The Bristol Gateway School – has received a National Online Safety Certified School Accreditation for its whole school community approach to protecting children in the online world.

National Online Safety is a multi-award winning digital training provider with extensive resources in online safety, developed in line with the Department of Education's statutory requirements.

Its CPD accredited courses and educational resources support UK schools in educating the whole school community in online safety– including all school staff, senior leaders, teachers and parents – on how to make the internet a safer place for children.

James Southworth, co-founder at National Online Safety, said: "Congratulations to everyone at Bristol Gateway School on becoming a National Online Safety Certified School. By completing our training programme, the school has shown its strong commitment to implementing an effective whole school approach to online safety."

"It can be increasingly difficult for schools and parents to stay ahead of online threats and ensure both children and staff are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. We arm schools with the knowledge they need to understand online dangers and how best to react to any problems."

Mr Marsh, IT Teacher at Bristol Gateway School, said: "This is a great opportunity for all staff, governors, parents and carers to be armed with the best, up to date, tools in dealing with online safety concerns. This resource will not just teach us about being online, but will also empower us all to deal with situations online, good or bad."



Important Reminders

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is £2.35 per day and needs to be paid promptly to the office.

Uniform

A quick reminder that the uniform consists of;

- Plain White Long Sleeved Shirt or Plain White Polo Shirt or White BGS Polo Shirt
- Black BGS Jumper
- Black Trousers or Black Skirt
- Black Shoes.
- Jewellery – a wristwatch and a single stud in each ear are permitted.
- Facial piercings are not permitted.
- Hair must be of standard school style with no extremes in colour, cut or styling.

Trainers are not permitted as part of school uniform

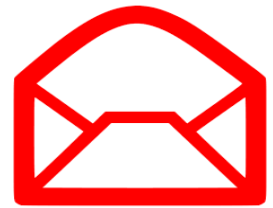
Uniform can be purchased at the office at the cost of £12.50 for a Jumper and £8.50 for a Polo Shirt.

PE T-shirts are available for purchase from the school office for £7.00

In order to keep your children safe at all times we must be able to reach you so we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of keeping your details up to date with the school office. Please inform us of any changes as soon as they occur so that we can update our contact systems. We are especially in need of your email address' as in order to save costs we will be sending more communications electronically.

All contact details are stored confidentially and will not be shared.

ACTION



Our main way of communicating with you from 1st September will now be via **email**. This will ensure that you get information quickly and means we reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 by passing paper around.

If we do not yet have your email address please email the school with your Child's full name.

Bristol.gateway.school@bristol-schools.uk

If you need support creating a free email address please contact the school office.

Medication and Allergies

Please can we remind parents of the importance of providing up to date medical and allergy information for your children. If we medicate your child during the school day then you must ensure that we are provided with sufficient supplies in order to complete this. If your child's medical needs change in any way then you must inform the school as soon as possible.

If your child is un-medicated then this poses a health and safety risk which could result in your child being sent home.