



A weekly newsletter for Parents, Carers, Students, Governors and Staff

8 March 2024

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

What's your favourite book? This is the postcard on my office door and I love this quote because it is so true! I have too many favourites to choose from but some of them are 'Pride and Prejudice' and 'Emma' by Jane Austen, 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens and 'The Poisonwood Bible' by Barbara Kingsolver, to name just a few! From childhood, I have fond memories of reading (and re-reading!) 'The Faraway Tree' series, 'The Secret Garden', 'A Little Princess' and the Narnia series and used to base my own creative writing on these imaginative worlds.



In World Book Week, let's remember the magic and joy of childhood reading and try to reconnect with the pleasure of sitting down with a good book, especially if it is something we have let slip or feel we don't have time for. So let's put down our phones and laptops for half an hour each day and jump into a book. Books are windows into our world and we can learn so much from reading a range of literature, whether that is fiction or non-fiction. They are also incredibly beneficial for our wellbeing and can reduce stress and anxiety. It will come as no surprise that students who read tend to achieve the highest outcomes in school which opens up all sorts of possibilities in the future. Please take some time to look at all of the fantastic departmental reading lists which staff have worked hard on to encourage students to read widely and for pleasure in their subjects: [Reading Lists – Saint Gregory's Bath \(st-gregorys.org.uk\)](#)

Judging the World Book Day dress up competition and decorated tutor room doors was tough because there were so many excellent examples of creativity and effort on display this year. However, this year's winners are: **Joint first place:** Malaya N, 7R 'Gangsta Granny' and Year 10 The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Judah T, Max L, Daniel K, Zach D, Stefan L, Isaac R and Toby H). **Second place:** Jin W, 9S as 'Snufkin' from Moomin. **Third Place:** Maya P, 8Y as 'Shark'. **Decorate a door:** Year 7 winner: 7R 'Boy at the Back of the Class'; **Year 8 winner:** 8S 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. **Year 9 winners:** 1st Place 9R 'The Jungle Book' and 2nd place 9Y Fairies. **Year 10 winners:** 10G 'Alice in Wonderland'.

Dates for Your Diary

Thu 14 Mar	PTFA Coffee and Cake 3.30pm
Thu 21 Mar	Y8 Virtual Parents' Evening
Wed 27 Mar	Last Day of Term for students
Thu 28 Mar	INSET—SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS
Fri 29 March	BANK HOLIDAY—GOOD FRIDAY

Next Week: B

Thank you to Year 8 for donating sweet treats and goodies to the bake sale with all proceeds going to Save the Children 'Child's Education' appeal - a great effort as part of our Catholic Social Teaching to provide preferential options for the poor and those who do not benefit from the quality education we do. Next week's newsletter will be packed full of pictures from our World Book Day events so be sure to look out for that.

In every world religion a book is at the centre of belief - for Christians, that book is the bible; for Muslims it is the Qua'ran and for Jews it is the Torah. All religions believe that their holy book holds great wisdom and that it can transport us to a place where we can find greater connections - connections with ourselves, others and ultimately God.

As we approach the weekend I hope you will find time to get lost in a book and I leave you with a prayer of thanksgiving for the joy of reading and books.

Dear God

We thank you for the power of a good book to transport us to new places and to give us new experiences. We thank you for the creativity of authors and illustrators in creating books for us to enjoy. We are thankful for our own ability to read and to imagine. We thank you for the people who have helped us to enjoy reading and for our education. Amen.

Mrs Melissa George (BA Hons, MA, PGCE)
Headteacher

Chaplaincy thoughts for the week ...

Year 8 Kintbury Residential, 1 - 3 March 2024

Last weekend Miss Phillips, Mrs West and I had the pleasure of accompanying a group of our Year 8 students to the Lasallian Retreat Centre, St Cassian's in Kintbury. Having the 'pleasure to accompany' is central to everything that took place over the weekend, as we watched the young people grow in their own way as the time went on. One of our young people was honest in their assessment commenting that *"On the coach here I didn't really know what to expect, maybe even a bit boring, but its been so much fun. I've loved all of the activities and time we've spent together having a laugh in our groups."*

So much of the Kintbury way is counter cultural for our students – little to no phone reception, no TVs, consoles or Wi-Fi, a timetable that tells them to *live in the now* and wait to find out what we are doing next. For many of them, having to spend 40 minutes sat together talking over a meal with no phones allowed was a new challenge, yet one that was embraced by everyone and the fruits of this and so many other opportunities for connection really shone through over the two days.

The young people spent the majority of Saturday focusing on *awareness* – of themselves, of others, of the world around us and of God's presence. They explored this through workshops led by the staff of St Cassian's, times of conversation and reflection in small groups, meditation and prayer as well as team games and activities outdoors. One of the quotes of the day for them to focus on was 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.' Awareness of the beauty of the grounds we were blessed with has been captured by Landon in his stunning photograph below of Cedric Cedar Tree and the main house.



Chaplaincy Timetable

Mon	Break – Shared Prayer Lunch – Lent Artwork
Tue	Break – Young Volunteer Meeting Lunch – Lent Artwork
Wed	Break – Rosary Lunch – Meditation
Thu	Break – Rosary Lunch – Stations of the Cross
Fri	Break – Lectio Divina (Sunday Gospel) Lunch – Lent Artwork



Evening entertainment always throws up plenty of laughs and this was no exception as we battled as groups over a quiz, fashion show with an eco twist and dance/sing off. The Good News liturgy on the final day captures perfectly how much the young people have embraced their time together and how it has impacted them. Each group reflected on the Good News of their weekend through the medium of dance, drama, song or whatever creativity they could muster up. Preceded by prayer stations that, through participation levels and engagement, showed just how far the young people had come in just a couple of days away on retreat.



The aim of the Kintbury experience is to expose the students to a cocktail of faith, fun and friendship so that wherever they are on the journey of faith, they will take something away with them.

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain



Doodle Maths / Doodle Tables Champion of the Week

Year 7:	Ben H (239 stars)	Maci L (185 stars)	Christo S (71 Stars)
Year 8:	Eddie W (169 stars)	Zac C (103 stars)	Katie P (78 stars)
Year 9:	Ece G (184 stars)	Izzy F (112 stars)	Oakley F (95 stars)

Congratulations to these students for completing so many doodle stars this week. Well done!

Recommended Reads

This week's recommended book is provided by Mrs Ponsford from the Inclusion department. It is called 'When I see blue'. This and all of the other departmental recommended books can be found on the school website, under 'School Life' and then 'Academic Life'.



When I see Blue by Lily Bailey

12 year old Ben is being bullied. Not by other children. Ben is bullied by a voice in his own head. Invisible OCD rules dictate his every action, trying to prevent him from living life like neuro-typical people do. It is exhausting trying to abide by a secret rule book – not to mention trying to hide it from others. But if Ben doesn't listen to his brain-bully, surely something dreadful will happen?

APPRENTICESHIPS & CAREERS FAIR

Meet over 100 national and local employers offering jobs and apprenticeships

THURSDAY 14TH MARCH 10AM-2PM

APEX HOTEL
James St W, Bath BA1 2DA

SIGN UP NOW
bathcollege.ac.uk/apprenticeships

Bath College Apprenticeships

GCSE Dance Showcase



Come and see an inspiring selection of work from our GCSE Dance students.

Everyone is welcome, particularly if you have chosen GCSE Dance as an option or you are thinking about it in the future.

Thursday 14 March, 6pm
Dance Studio
Donations on the door

National Youth Dance Company Workshop



On Wednesday 28 February our Year 10 GCSE class were lucky enough to attend a workshop delivered by alumni from the National Youth Dance Company.

NYDC is a diverse dance company that gives young people a chance to collaborate with professional choreographers, develop different dance styles and perform in

professional venues such as Sadler's Wells. 80% of NYDC graduates go on to further dance training or careers in dance.

Orla and Dan gave us some background into their work and training, taught technique exercises and repertoire from the choreographer, Wayne McGregor, and set choreographic tasks. This was such a fantastic opportunity for our students to meet and work with professional dancers. We hope they were inspired and the work yesterday can help inform their own practice.



Mrs Pearson, Head of Dance

Online Career Days

We have new dates released for your child to attend career days online which are taking place over the next couple of months.

The career days are designed to give students an insight into possible future careers with advice on how to apply to university and an afternoon session of work experience to help them see what the career may be like. Students will receive a certificate confirming their work experience.

Students aged 13-18 can register to join the online days by visiting www.careerdays.co.uk

The schedule is as follows:

- **Medicine Career Day** - Saturday 30 March 2024
- **Midwifery Career Day** - Saturday 6 April 2024
- **Dentistry Career Day** - Sunday 7 April 2024
- **Psychology Career Day** - Saturday 20 April 2024
- **Business Career Day** - Saturday 27 April 2024
- **Architect Career Day** - Saturday 4 May 2024
- **Vet Career Day** - Saturday 11 May 2024
- **Law Career Day** - Sunday 18 May 2024
- **Performing Arts Career Day** - Sunday 19 May 2024
- **Computer Science Career Day** - Saturday 25 May 2024
- **Teaching Career Day** - Saturday 1 June 2024

Students can visit www.careerdays.co.uk to join a session in their field of interest and will receive a certificate at the end of the day confirming their work experience.

Mr Boutland Smith, Assistant Headteacher Wider Participation

Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands



Year 7-13 Dance students watched Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands at the Bristol Hippodrome on Tuesday evening. Their behaviour, as always, was exemplary and a wonderful evening of Dance was experienced by all.

A huge thank you to Mrs Pearson for organising this fantastic opportunity for GCSE Dance students alongside our senior and junior dance company.

Mrs Richards, Head of Performing Arts

Baskervilles Competition Weekend

Over the weekend Baskervilles School of Gymnastics held its annual Club Competition. The event, spread across three days, was the biggest the club has ever seen with nearly 900 gymnasts taking part in the event.

Held at Baskervilles' hub centre on Englishcombe Lane, Bath, gymnasts from across the club's five centres came together to compete. Competitors took turns performing both a floor routine and a vault jump in front of the judges and a large audience of spectators. The event also included a raffle to raise money for local charities including the 'Ben Saunders Foundation' which is obviously very dear to our hearts at St Gregory's.

The gymnasts were divided into different coloured groups according to age and experience and were competing within these groups. Every gymnast received a participation medal which they all proudly wore in the final ceremony and in each group there were Gold, Silver and Bronze winners in both the floor and vault events.



It was a delightful experience for both the gymnasts and the parents alike and, despite being a competition, the overall experience was one of community, support and friendship. The club is run by a caring family organisation whose ethos is to be inclusive and supportive to all, regardless of age or ability. Many of our St Gregory's students competed in the event, as did many of the children of our staff members. All did exceptionally well and were rightly proud of their achievements. Of special note however was the award given to **Jemima Avison** in Year 10 who won a trophy for the 'Outstanding Achievement Award'. As you can see she was delighted to be awarded this trophy as a mark of her determinism and effort across the seven years she has been a member of the club.

Our thanks go to the Baskervilles School of Gymnastics for holding this event and for providing an opportunity for young people to take part in such a rewarding experience.

Mr Hayward, Assistant Headteacher

Music Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor: Contemporary Vocal Group BAND	Break: Flute Salad Lunch: Symphony Orchestra After School: School Production Band	Tutor: Contemporary Vocal Group (all) Lunch: Brass Band	Tutor: Senior Choir (Y9+) String Sinfonia	Tutor: Lower School Voices (Y7-Y8)

Why join?

Exclusive trips, concerts and more!



Nut Allergies



Please be aware that we have students and staff with serious nut allergies. We would therefore ask that you do not include nuts in packed lunches and snacks, eg chocolate and cereal bars.

St Gregory's Breakfast Club

Open every day

Time: 08:15 — 08:30

Cost: Free

Who: Open to all students



Benefit Related Free School Meals All School Years

Is your household earned income/take home pay below £616.67 per month?

Is your child missing out on Benefit Related Free School Meals?

- If your household earned income/take home pay is below £616.67 per month, (which is equivalent to £7,400 per year) and your child attends a Bath & North East Somerset academy or maintained school then you could be entitled to Benefit Related Free School Meals?
- Your household income is the figure that Universal Credit use to work out how much Universal Credit to pay you, **not** your actual Universal Credit payment.
- If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year two and receives Universal Infant Free School Meals, **you can still apply for the Benefit Related Free School Meals.**

Please do not reapply if your child is already in receipt of Benefit Related Free School Meals.

Ways to apply:

Online via the following link: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

You can ask your child's school for an application form or you can make a telephone application by calling 01225 394317. If you reach our answerphone, please leave a message and we will call you back.

For more details, please visit our website at: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Qualifying benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (WITHOUT Working Tax Credit) and have an annual household income (as assessed by HMRC) below £16,190
- Working Tax Credit **Run-on** which is **only paid for four weeks** after you STOP qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under PartV1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Reporting Absences

Feature on the Class Charts (parent) App

Please use the Class Charts app to notify the school if your child is going to be absent. The absence telephone line is still available, however we would prefer you to use this app if possible. This should not only be easier for you, but will allow the school to be more efficient when recording student absences. Once we have acknowledged the absence, you will receive a confirmation email to the account that is registered in the app.

You can also report planned absences such as medical appointments.

Absences

If your school has decided to allow parents to report absences, you will see the **Absences** tab when viewing pupils from that school.

Selecting this tab will display a list of **absences that you have reported**, once you have reported them. This includes **when the absence took place**, the **reason for the absence** and who **acknowledged your absence report**.

To report an absence, click on the **Report new absence** button.

Next, enter the details of the reported absence into the **form** provided.

You can also include up to **5 files** in your absence report as **supporting evidence**. To do this, click on the **Attach supporting evidence** button and select the files of your choice.

Click on the **Submit** button to send your pupil's absence report to their school. The absence can be **edited** and **deleted** until it has been **acknowledged** by a teacher.



Date of absence: 26/01/2021

Reason for absence: Terry missed the bus today.

Please report your child's absences as soon as possible

Attachments

ATTACH SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

You can upload a maximum of 5 attachments, each up to 250mb in size.

SUBMIT CANCEL

Performing Arts Enrichment Timetable

Term 4 - 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor Time 8.30am-9.00am				
Contemporary Vocal Group (Band) Ensemble Pod with Mrs Sterlini	Year 7 Singing DRST with Mrs Sterlini	Contemporary Vocal Group DRST with Mrs Sterlini	Senior Choir MUS with Mrs Green	Lower School Voices (Y7-8) MUS with Mrs Sterlini
			String Sinfonia DRST with Mrs Smith	
Break Time 11.10-11.25am				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Flute Salad DRST with Mrs Holden			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch time 1.30-2.05pm				
GCSE Drama Practical Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards	GCSE Drama Practical Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards	Brass Band MUS with Mrs Avison	Junior Dance company DAST with Susannah	GCSE Drama Practical Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards
Dance Umbrella DAST with Mrs Pearson	Symphony Orchestra DAST with Mrs Sterlini	GCSE Dance Practical support DAST with Mrs Pearson	GCSE Dance Written support DAST with Mrs Pearson	GCSE & A level Drama Practical support DRST with Mr Psirides
Tech Club DRST with Mr Psirides & Austin	GCSE Music Composition MUS with Edgar	GCSE Drama Written support DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	Year 7 Drama Club DRST with Maddie & Sammy	KS3 Drama Club DAST with Mr Singh
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After school 3.10-4.30pm				
	GCSE & A level Drama Practical support DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	GCSE Drama Practical Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	GCSE Drama Practical Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	A level Drama support DRST/DAST with Mr Psirides & Mrs Richards




The Roman Baths Youth Forum 2024

Calling young people aged 16-25!

Join the Roman Baths Youth Forum for unique experiences.

This space is for young people to learn, create and collaborate in a museum, building new skills and meeting people along the way.

We meet at the Roman Baths Clore Learning Centre on the first Tuesday of every month*, 5:30pm-7:30pm.

*The dates of the next 3 sessions are: 2nd April, 2nd May and 4th June.



To sign up or find out more, scan the QR code above.

Alternatively, email heritage_community_engagement@bathnes.gov.uk



PARENT CARERS SHAPING THE SERVICES WE NEED

B&NES Parent Carer Forum



Are you a parent / carer of someone aged 0-25yrs who has disabilities and/or special educational needs?

Please visit our website or social media for support, advice and contact details to get in touch / join us.

WE BELIEVE IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

www.banespcf.co.uk

RNCPCT
National Network of Parent Carer Forums
"Our Strength is our Shared Experience"



We hope you have all had a good week.

This week the focus of the Slice of Science is British Science week. We have organised several activities in school to celebrate it. Here is the link to the main website.

[Homepage - British Science Week](#)



The poster competition has been promoted already and the first ones are coming in but we need more. The theme is 'TIME' this year. We will enter the five best posters from the school to the overall competition.

<https://www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition/>

One of the main events that all can get involved with is our Elemental Egg Hunt. There will be 118 elements cards hidden around the school. They all need to be found and if you bring them to the science office with an interesting fact about the element, there will be a small prize.

Finally, there will be daily lunchtime activities run by members of the science department, as set out below, that all are welcome to attend. Details will be posted daily on Memo Keeper everyday.

- Monday 11 March – Famous Scientist Orienteering - PHD
- Tuesday 12 March – Dying eggs with Natural Dyes - GSH
- Wednesday 13 March – Volcanoes (Bicarb and Vinegar) MKE
- Thursday 14 March – Meet and Greet our new stick insects – JTA/SNE
- Friday 16 March – Splitting light with Prisms - WTH

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as we can next week.

The Science Team

SEND Homework Club for students with SEND

Monday to Thursday each week

Immediately after Lesson 5, until 4pm

Students should come straight to the Study Room in the Inclusion Department at the end of the school day.

Sessions can be booked through the school Gateway via parents evening/school cloud <https://saintgregorysbath.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

(Maximum of two sessions per week)

NB: If your child is unable to attend, please cancel your booking as places are limited.



Water Bottles

Please remember to bring in a named water bottle (for water only) which can be refilled in the Bistro area or by the Snack Shack at appropriate times. **NB: You may also like to think of this if you have a long journey home.**

Language Corner

French: une matière (*a subject at school*) and un sujet (*a topic*)

I have 13 subjects at school and my favourite subject is French

J'ai 13 matières à l'école et ma matière préférée est le français.

The subject/topic of the debate is : Education

Le sujet du débat est : education.

Spanish: Estoy como agua para chocolate – I'm very angry (literally, I'm like boiling water ready to make hot chocolate)

Mandarin: 家和万事兴。 (Jiāhé wànshìxīng. 'family harmonious everything prospers') — **If a family is harmonious everything will go well.**

Do you understand what it's like to be autistic?

Do you have some ideas about how the world can become more autism friendly?

Could you share your ideas and experiences to support other autistic young people?

Join us!

**B&NES
SASS**

**AUTISTIC
VOICES
PANEL**



B&NES SASS Autistic Voices Panel



To be a member of the Specialist Autism Support Service Autistic Voices Panel you must be:

- aged 11 - 25 years old and have a home address in the B&NES local authority
- autistic (with a diagnosis)
- able to attend meetings and events online or in person

You do not need any past experience of volunteering or working in groups to apply.

What do the Autistic Voices Panel do?

- The SASS Autistic Voices Panel meet at least three times each academic year (Sept - July)
- The group add their voice and life experience of education to SASS and help us develop our training and support for schools, young people and their families in B&NES
- Keep SASS focussed on the current issues facing autistic children and young adults in B&NES
- When other opportunities are available, they might be asked to attend and speak at local Conferences and events, share their experiences with professionals in film, and contribute to national consultations and research projects.

How does the panel work?

- We will meet a minimum of 3 times a year (maximum of 6) and meetings are held in the afternoons
- We will give you the option of meeting online or in person
- If you cannot attend a meeting, please let us know.
- Before the meeting, you will be sent the agenda and any worksheets.

Who will I be supported by?

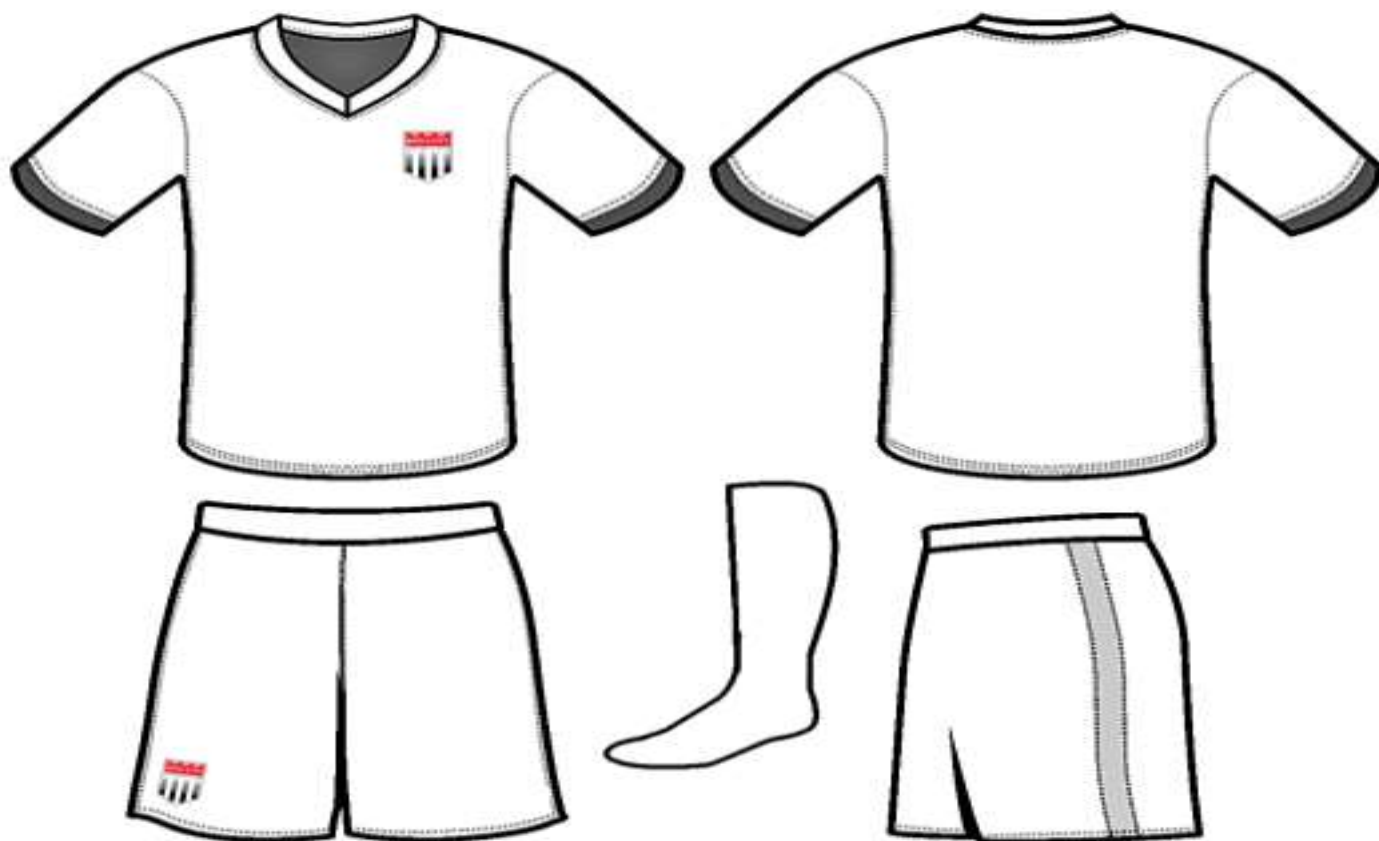
- The group is run by SASS. Sarah will contact you and will be at meetings. There may be some more members of the SASS team who join us: we will let you know who is coming.
- If you have specific support needs, please let us know. The Autistic Voices Panel is an open, inclusive and accessible place.

We are happy to support you in any way you need to take part. For the application form, please see:
<https://forms.office.com/r/ZGoHa7UXTH> or please email skeelty@fossewayschool.com for a printable version of the form.

Next meetings:
Thursday 21st March
+ Monday 24th June
2024
3.30-4.30pm

DESIGN YOUR OWN BATH CITY FC KIT

HAND IN YOUR DESIGNS TO THE BATH CITY SHOP AT TWERTON PARK BY THE 10TH MARCH FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN A FOOTBALL SIGNED BY BATH CITY PLAYERS



THE KIT MUST REPRESENT EQUALITY IN FOOTBALL

NAME:

PARENT CONTACT DETAILS:



U16's FREE ENTRY TO BATH CITY FC VOUCHER WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT TO CELEBRATE HER GAME TOO

To celebrate International Women's Day and to launch a new partnership with Her Game Too, Bath City FC are warmly inviting daughters, sisters, wives, mums, aunties, grandmas and nieces to Twerton Park on 9 March for the Men's first team fixture against Farnborough and/or 10 March for the Women's First team match against Shaftesbury.

With free entry for all children under 16 when accompanied by a full paying adult, there will be plenty going on for all the family including an ice cream van, penalty shoot-out in **Charlie's**, face-painting, Design-A-Kit competition and flag waving on the pitch for under 12s.

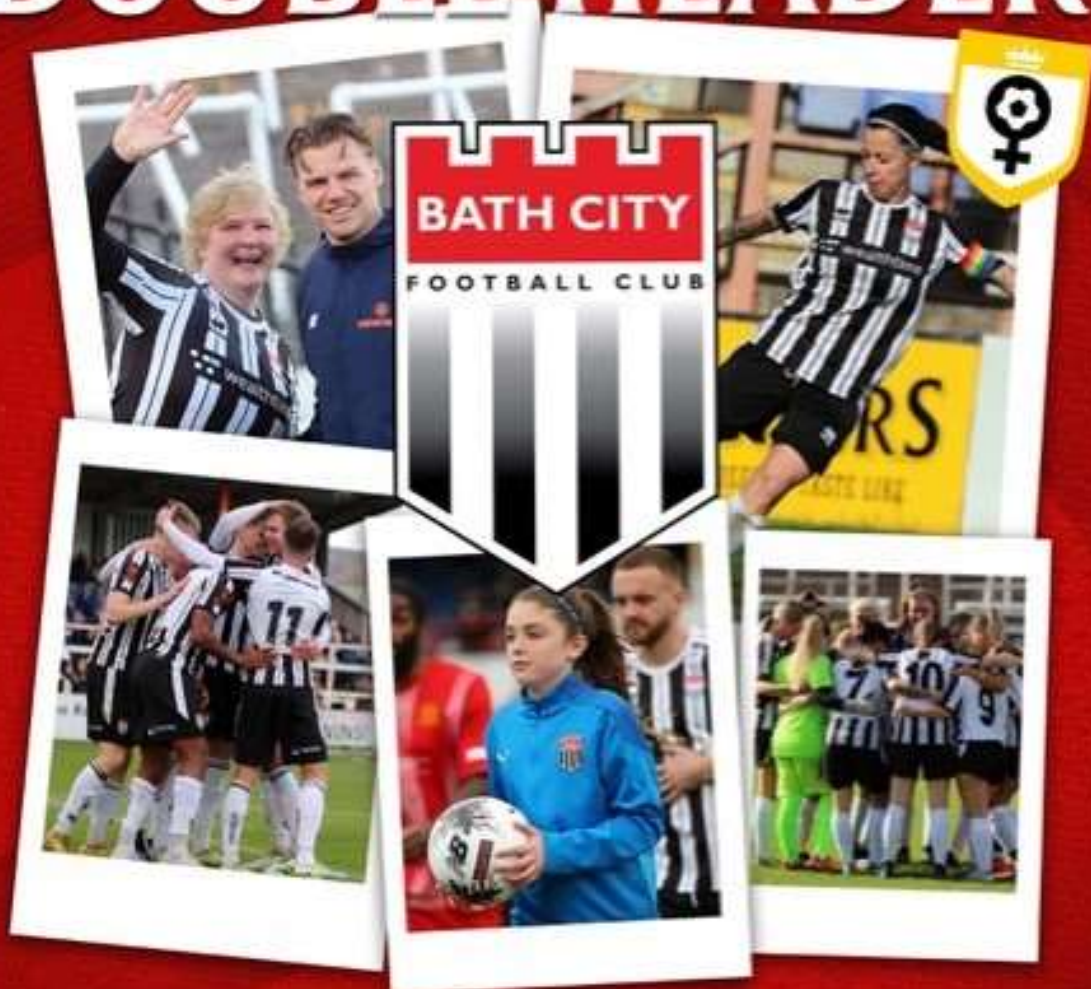
The Romans will be accompanied onto the pitch just before 3pm KO on Saturday by an all-female team of Mascots from Bath City Youth Girls U12s team, there will be a penalty shootout on the pitch at half time with players from the Women's first team and the club is expecting a very special visit from Somerset FA's mascot, Blaze.

Sunday will then see Bath City Women's First team take on Shaftesbury at Twerton Park. With free entry for all, what better way to spend Mother's Day than cheering on from the terraces in the final BCFC women's fixture of the season. Kick off at 2pm.

Her Game Too is an award winning campaign that was started in 2021 and aims to create a safe and inclusive environment for all female supporters, where they feel empowered to engage with the game and are treated with respect, both on and off the pitch. They aim to promote the visibility of women's football and encourage its growth through championing the women's game and supporting grassroots girls' football development.

Bath City Football Club

BATH CITY FOOTBALL CLUB HER GAME TOO DOUBLE HEADER



BATH CITY V

FARNBOROUGH SATURDAY 9TH MARCH - 3PM KICK OFF

BATH CITY W V

SHAFTESBURY SUNDAY 10TH MARCH - 2PM KICK OFF



9

MARCH

3 PM

TWERTON PARK, HIGH STREET
TWERTON, BATH, BA2 1DB

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HER GAME TOO
A CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



VS. FARNBOROUGH F.C
SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

**FREE ENTRY FOR
U16'S WITH A
PAYING ADULT**

PLEASE ENTER VIA
TURNSTILE 17 (BRISTOL END)

ALL UNDER 16'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AT
LEAST ONE PAYING ADULT. NO CASH VALUE