

# Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2025

## What's In This Issue?

- [Notice Board](#)
- [House News](#)
- [Subject Update: Business](#)
- [Subject Update: English](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Community Notices](#)

### A NOTE FROM MRS KING

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

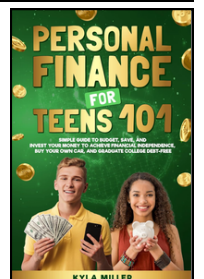
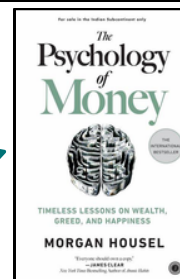
I would like to wish the BFS community a Happy New Year.

We started 2025 very positively despite it being very cold! In my *Welcome Back* assembly this week, I have been encouraging students to reflect on their money management skills and the importance of developing the habit of budgeting. This idea was prompted by the recent success of Luke Littler winning the World Darts Championship at the age of 17. Students were surprised to hear that Luke will be paying almost half of his £500,000 winnings to HMRC in income tax and National Insurance contributions. We learnt about the 50:30:20 guide when budgeting (needs/wants/savings). So, if there is any Christmas money still unspent, aiming to save 20% of it is a very sensible money habit to develop. Research indicates that young people who manage their allowance through a bank account go on to have better money management skills which, in the modern era, is a vital life skill.

Stay warm and welcome back!



### Book recommendations



## Farewell

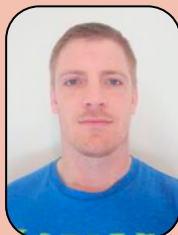
At the end of Term 2 we said goodbye to:



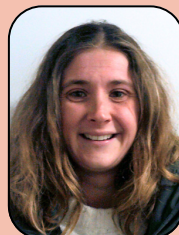
**Miss Exon**  
Sixth Form Operations Coordinator



**Mr Harvey**  
Science Teacher



**Mr Probert**  
Maths Teacher



**Miss Rostill**  
Deputy Head of Maths



**Ms Freeman**  
Science Teacher



**Ms Chown**  
Administrator

## Welcome

This term we say hello to:

### STAFF NEWS



# NOTICE BOARD



[BFS Bristol](#)



[BFS Enrichment](#)

## NEXT WEEK AT BFS

### Thursday 16 January

Year 9 - Options Launch Event - online at 5.30pm  
(link to join the event will be sent to Y9 parents/carers)  
Year 12 - RSE Pastoral Day  
Year 12/13 - Theatre trip to Bristol Old Vic

### Friday 17 January

Year 7 - Young Green Briton Design Workshop  
Year 12 - Unlock Cyber event at UWE

### Saturday 18 January

Avon School Cross Country Championships

## QUICK LINKS



[Lunch Menu](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Student/Parent Handbook](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

## MONKHOUSE UNIFORM

Uniform suppliers, Monkhouse, are still in the process of moving their Stoke Gifford retail store to Kingswood. They hope to open the store in February half term however you can still visit their Bedminster store or order online. They are offering free delivery using the code **FREDELSTOKEG** and an extended 60 day returns period.



## INSTAGRAM

BFS runs four official Instagram accounts and no other social media:

[@BFS Bristol](#)

[@BFS Enrichment](#)

[@BFS TeamPE](#)

[@BFS Art Dept](#)

Please be reminded that TikTok, Instagram and SnapChat all have 13+ as a minimum age requirement.



## ROUTINES AND LATENESS



The start of a new term is a great time to get into a solid attendance and punctuality routine!

We expect students to be in school by 8.25am, ready to attend tutor at 8.30am. Students who are late without good reason will be given a detention. Our registers close at 9am, so students who arrive after this time without good reason will have unauthorised absence recorded. Unauthorised absence lates can lead to fixed penalty notices or prosecutions being issued by Bristol City Council.

Information about fines and prosecutions are available [here](#).

## SEND RESOURCES

How best to support an Autistic young person through their exams:

- [Advice for parents/carers](#)
- [Resources to support autistic pupils with exams](#)
- [Resources for autistic teenagers](#)



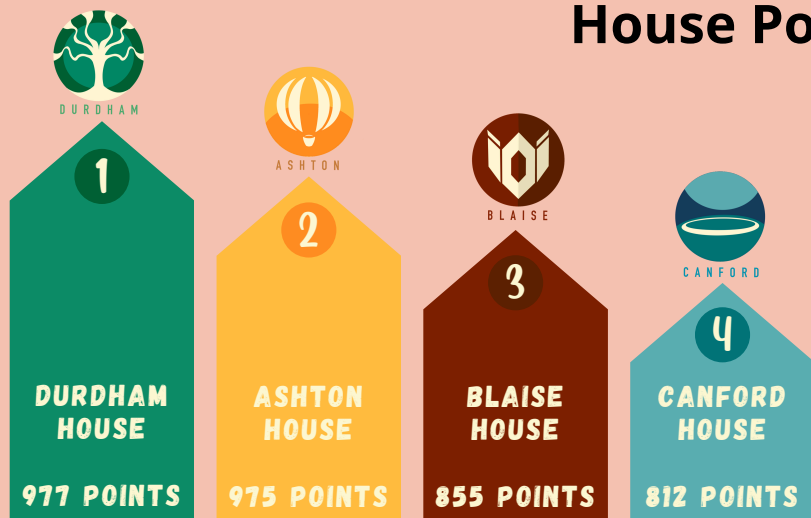
National  
Autistic  
Society



# HOUSE NEWS



## House Points



Congratulations to **Durdham** House for earning the most House points this week!

#BFSCommunity  
 #BFSOpportunity  
 #BFSAmbition

## Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Muhammad A	Madeleine P	Jacob W	Charlie P
Year 8	Jemima H	Bonnie S	Daisy P	Ella B
Year 9	Elsa J	Muhammad A	Carla D	Elizabeth C, Emily P
Year 10	Amelie G, Daniel L, Hannah D, Harry C, Henry B, Penelope B	Amelia L, Fiona H, Noah D, Winnie B, Esme R	Matthew B	Leo V
Year 11	Emlyn W	Evelyn A, Polly C, Ruby W, Ben H, Stanley H, Hannah O	Amal B, Louisa H	Catherine B, Lily F, Madeleine H, Callum W, Daniel G, Edward C
Year 13	Olivia D, Max C	Jessica S, Phoebe H-J, Jude W	George B	Mathew L

## Sixth Form Student of the Term!

Our Year 12 and 13 students are continuing to impress with their hard work and focus. At the end of Term 2 subject teachers were asked to nominate a **Student of the Term** for their subject.

Well done to all our winners!

### Year 12

Art - Guss A  
 Photography - Daisy R  
 Business - Ben D  
 French - Joey W  
 Spanish - Catie C  
 History - Hollie R  
 Geography - Dylan P  
 RP - Sophie W  
 Politics - Louie J  
 English - Eloise B  
 H&SC - Hannah G  
 Psychology - Alyssa C  
 Sociology - Grace S

Design Tech - Kate M  
 Computer Science - Patrik F  
 Drama - Anton N  
 Music - Leon L  
 Economics - Alan R  
 PE - Ben K  
 Biology - Elsie C  
 Chemistry - Lauren E  
 Physics - Susie C  
 Core Maths - Jasmine S  
 Maths - Archie H  
 Further Maths - James H

### Year 13

Art - Phoebe L  
 Photography - Kaelen M  
 Business - Patrik M  
 Spanish - Jacob H  
 History - Joshua H  
 Geography - Keira T  
 RP - Will W  
 Politics - Billy M  
 English - Jess S  
 H&SC - Paris W  
 Psychology - Holly D  
 Sociology - Aidan B

Design Tech - Mostaphe K  
 Computer Science - Isaac S  
 Drama - Isaac M  
 Economics - Emily C  
 PE - Rory D  
 Biology - Chloe C  
 Chemistry - Kwame A  
 Physics - Olivia G  
 Maths - Alex H-J  
 Further Maths - James W



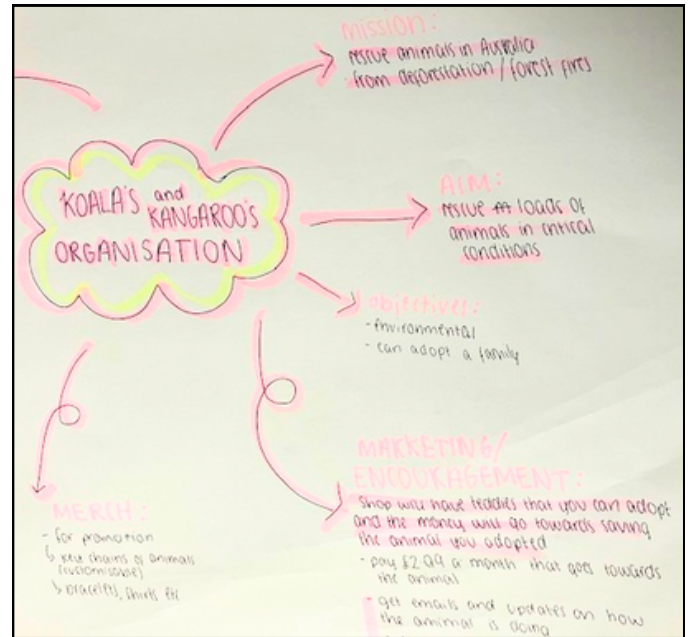
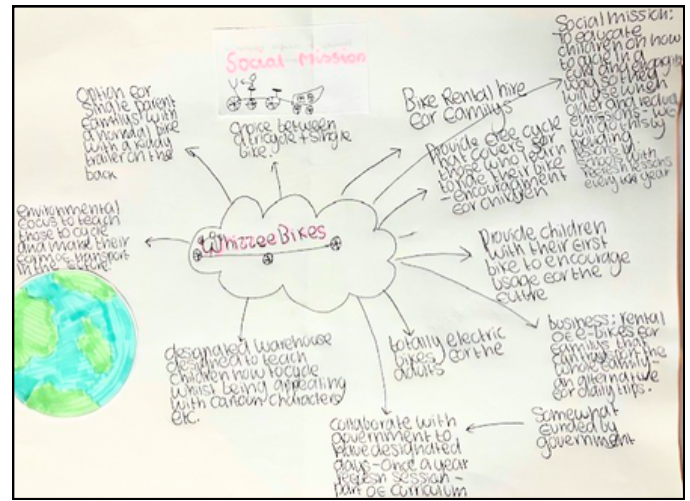
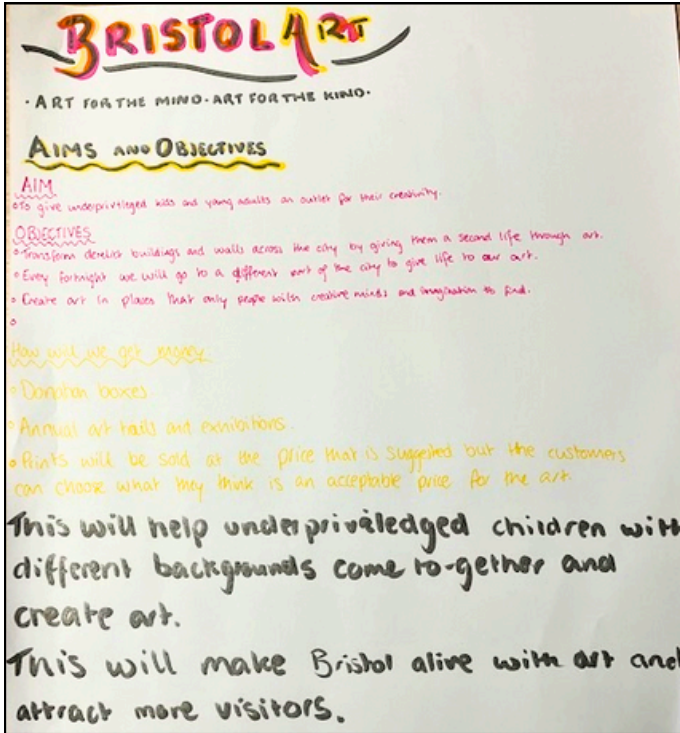


# What has been happening in... **Business?**



## YEAR 10

Last term, Year 10 GCSE Business students worked through topics on *enterprise, entrepreneurship* and *spotting business opportunities*. This included learning about the dynamic nature of business and identifying new opportunities through understanding of customer needs and completing market research. Here are some examples of students' ideas when exploring a new opportunity for a social mission business. This task involved working as a team, being creative with ideas, and presenting their chosen idea to the class.



## YEAR 11

Last term, Year 11 GCSE Business students worked through topics on *growing the business* and *making marketing decisions*. This included learning about methods of growth, the impact of globalisation on business, and learning how the marketing mix is managed and used to inform business decisions. Students completed their practice exam on Theme 1 in November and are now preparing for their Theme 2 practice exam in February.

**Well done!**

## YEAR 12

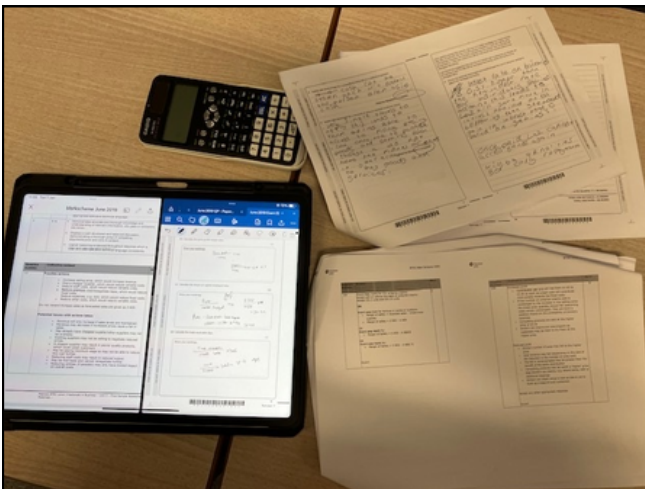
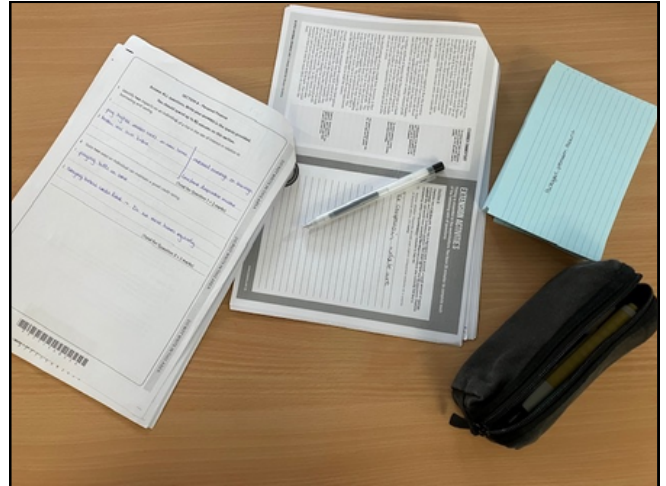
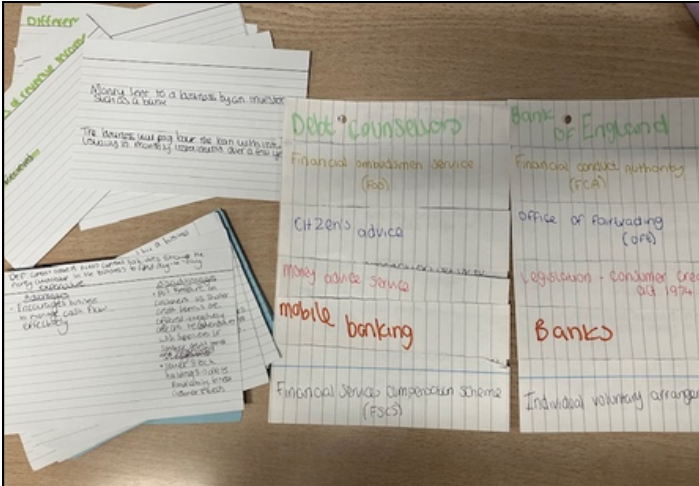
Since September our Year 12 BTEC Business group have completed two key assignments for the *Exploring Business* unit. Students were given the task to research a large business of their choice, exploring the reasons for their success and the internal and external factors that impact them. Many of our students exceeded 5000 words per assignment!!!

**Fantastic work!**



Our Year 13 BTEC Business students have been preparing for their Unit 3 external exam on *Business and Finance* taking place on Monday 13 January. Students are completing a range of tasks to ensure they are prepared for questions on:

- Understanding the importance of managing personal finance
- The personal business finance sector
- The purpose of accounting
- Sources of business finance
- Break-even and cash flow forecasts
- Statements of comprehensive income and financial position
- Evaluating a business's performance



**Good luck to all BTEC students sitting their exam on Monday 13 January!**

**92% attendance**



is like watching all of The Traitors but missing the finale

**Studybugs** 

**Attendance Matters**

[www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/attendance](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/attendance)



What has been happening in...

# English?



## YEAR 7 SHAKESPEARE SHOWCASE

The English Department were pleased to enjoy ending December with our first Shakespeare Showcase. Students have been working hard learning about Shakespeare through his comedic play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and had spent two weeks rehearsing pivotal scenes from the play. Year 7 were extremely creative with this, and it was wonderful to see an array of props and costumes on the day.

For the first part of the lesson, half the year group were performers and the other half audience. Each group of audience moved through the English block to see four mini scenes acted out. The audience and cast then swapped halfway through the lesson so each Year 7 student participated as an actor and audience member. We were really proud to see excellent and supportive behaviour throughout, with several students given standing ovations after brilliant performances.

We asked Year 7 to feedback to us on what they enjoyed about being Shakespearian actors and here is what they said:

“

*It was really fun watching my friends perform.*

*I liked the rehearsals the most and figuring out how we were going to make it the best performance.*

*It was better doing something different from writing.*

*The rehearsals because everyone was helping each other.*

”



“

*Being a fairy with my friends and seeing it all come together.*

*Getting to play a major role after years of being a one liner.*

*Everyone was very supportive, and it was nice seeing my friends perform as well.*

”



## YEARS 10-13

We invited Dr Boccardi, Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of West England, to give a talk to Years 10-13 about what life was like studying English at university. It was great to see how many of our Year 10 and 11 students are already thinking about next steps in their future and how a love of literature could be part of it.

Year 13 then attended a lecture that applied structuralism to one of their A Level texts, *Othello*, to get a taste of what an English session at university could be like. They were very positive about the session afterwards so a big thank you to Dr Boccardi for spending her morning at BFS.





# BFS SPORTS

YEARS 9-10



MRS WYNNE-JONES

## Sports Hall Athletics Final

**Fantastic!**

Year 9 boys and Year 10 girls represented BFS at the Sports Hall Athletics Final this week. They all competed in at least one track and one field event. They were absolutely fantastic! A few of them received selection letters for an event in February based on their performance in the track events. Absolutely amazing! Well done Team BFS!



### UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 13 January	Y10 Woodcock Shield Football vs Bradley Stoke Community School	Bradley Stoke Community School
Monday 20 January	Post 16 Netball vs Cotham School	Cotham School
Monday 20 January	U14 & U16 Boys Basketball vs Fairfield High School	BFS
Monday 27 January	U14 & U16 Boys Basketball vs Bristol Met	BFS
Monday 27 January	Y7 & Y10 Rugby vs Bristol Grammar School	Failand



## EXTRA CURRICULAR



## Engineering Club

We are raising money to build our very own BFS race car which we hope to race in June!

We are looking for:

- sponsorship from local organisations and businesses
- parental assistance
- donations of clean motorcycle helmets, gloves and overalls

Year 7-9 Engineering Club runs every Wednesday after school.

**Thank you**



MR LAXON



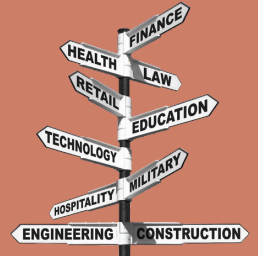
YEARS 7-9





MR BRUNKER

# CAREERS



## Connect With Us

Connect with us on LinkedIn! @Bristol Free School.  
Join in the conversation and help us if you can.  
**Work Experience Employer Talks Careers Day**



## EMPLOYER TALK

In our first Employer Talk of the new year, we were delighted to welcome Liz Cornwell, a hydrologist and water resource expert from the Environment Agency in Bristol. Liz described her career journey and gave lots of examples of the roles she has done in her 20-year career, from hydrologist to water resources adviser. She also gave students a good insight into other jobs available in the environment and water sector, including ecologists, engineers, computer modellers, social scientists, economists and lawyers.



Liz described her passion for making a difference to the world around her, making sure the water that comes out of our taps is safe, that there is enough water for everyone and still enough left in the environment to keep plants, wildlife and rivers safe. She also explained why a career in *water in the environment* could be a good choice for students, with good job prospects due to the constant demand for talent at apprentice and graduate level. She also shared some of her career highlights: working on a reservoir

enlargement scheme and being at the opening with Sir David Attenborough, and her two-minutes of fame being interviewed on Sky News.

In terms of how to get into an environmental career, Liz herself studied Geography at university, but said there are lots of other subject areas that could lead students into the field including Chemistry, Biology, Ecology, Maths, Statistics, Economics and even Psychology.

This was a practical, interesting and informative talk, with lots of advice on how to access the environment and water sector through an apprenticeship or the university route, and plenty of examples of the organisations students can approach for work experience, apprenticeships and graduate roles.

**Thank you**

## COMING UP...

- 17 January:** Mental Health Nursing
- 24 January:** NHS Practice Management
- 31 January:** KPMG Accountancy
- 7 February:** Engineering
- 14 February:** Avon Fire and Rescue Service
- 28 February:** Corporate Finance

## THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE?

The next open day at City of Bristol College is on Saturday 18 January. There are only a few spaces still available: [register here](#).

The next open day at SGS College is on Saturday 25 January. This looks like the last open day for 2025 candidates so be sure to [register](#) if you have not been to an open event yet.



## APPRENTICESHIPS

### Apprentice Site Engineer

Company: Galliford Try  
Location: Cheltenham  
Start date: July 2025  
Apply: [Apprentice Site Engineer](#)

### Degree Apprentice Estimator

Company: Morgan Sindall  
Location: Cardiff/Bristol  
Start date: September 2025  
Apply: [Degree Apprentice Estimator](#)

### Apprentice Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Practitioner - Level 4

Company: Laing O'Rourke  
Location: South of England  
Start date: September 2025  
Apply: [Apprentice CR&S Practitioner](#)

### Nuclear Engineering Degree Apprentice

Company: EDF  
Location: London/Bristol  
Start date: September 2025  
Apply: [NEDA Apprentice](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Bristol City Robins Foundation** are running a number of open evenings and taster events in February and March for interested students to find out about their post-16 sports diplomas. The first open evening is on Wednesday 5 February at 6:30pm. Full details of all the events and booking info [here](#).

**Pathways to Property** is run by Henley Business School to raise awareness of the range of careers available within the Real Estate industry. [Applications](#) for Year 12 students are open for the March Insight Days (Bristol on 26 March). Applications open 20 Jan for the 4-day residential at University of Reading (8-11 July).

**In2STEM** is a fantastic opportunity for Year 12 students passionate about STEM. Running from 21 July to 22 August, the programme offers an in-person work experience placement, live online workshops, competitions and events. You will gain hands-on STEM experience and expand your personal and professional skills. Find out more [here](#). Deadline is Sunday 2 February.

THE NEXT GENERATION

# SCHOOL of ROCK

THE MUSICAL

WEDNESDAY 29, THURSDAY 30 & FRIDAY 31 JANUARY 2025

BASED ON THE PARAMOUNT MOVIE WRITTEN BY MIKE WHITE

MUSIC BY  
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

BOOK BY  
JULIAN FELLOWES

LYRICS BY  
GLENN SLATER



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## North Bristol Dads' Group

We are a dads' group in North Bristol which is run by dads in partnership with Families in Focus.

If you feel overwhelmed and want somewhere to vent, or want to talk to other dads in a similar position, or if you just want to meet new people and have chat over a cup of coffee!

We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Ruby Jeans Cafe in Shirehampton, 6pm-8pm and often organise activities, we recently had a trip to Sugarloaf in Wales. Feel free to pop along or scan the barcode below to register your interest.

3RD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
6PM-8PM

 RUBY JEANS CAFE,  
3-4 THE PARADE,  
BRISTOL BS11 9TS



## MUSIC PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS ON CROW LANE

- Free to access for ages 13-21
- Learn production techniques & record your own song
- All styles and abilities welcome (Rap, Singer-songwriter, RnB etc.)
- Feel free to bring instruments
- No experience necessary
- Every Friday at Henbury Library  
179 Crow Ln, Henbury, Bristol, BS10 7DR
- January 3rd - March 14th  
5:30 - 7:30pm



Music Production Workshops on Crow Lane are part of the City Centre and High Streets Culture and Events Programme funded by Bristol City Council and the West of England Combined Authority

# FREE BUS TRAVEL FOR A MONTH.

And so much more...



**WEST**

Celebrate your birthday all month long  
Plus, this year you get added offers and freebies...

[birthdaybus.co.uk/](http://birthdaybus.co.uk/)