

Newsletter

STAFF NEWS

Farewell

At the end of Term 4 we said goodbye to:



Miss Hastings
Medical & Wellbeing
Officer



Mr Lustig-Bruce
Deputy Head of Maths



Ms Pumffrey
Maths Teacher

Welcome

This term we say hello to:

What's In This Issue?

[Notice Board](#)

[House News](#)

[Ski Trip](#)

[English](#)

[Sports](#)

[Careers](#)

A NOTE FROM MS JONES, MS CONOLE & MR LAM

Alagna Valsesia, Piedmont, Italy

What an unforgettable week we have had in the Italian Alps! Last year's ski trip was a tough act to follow, but we have had an incredible week in the stunning region of Alagna Valsesia in Northern Italy. As we departed BFS, we braced ourselves for the 27-hour coach journey to Italy which eventually turned into a 29 and-a-bit hour coach journey after a 'minor' (unexpected) detour through beautiful Switzerland! On arrival in Italy, students were still in good spirits despite Isaac's accurate but unwelcome interjection "Miss Jones, I'm not being funny, but I could have got to Australia by now", and we were greeted with stunning mountain scenery and a beautiful Alpine village.

[Continued on page 5.](#)





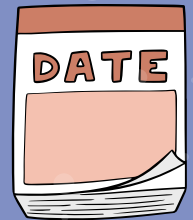
NOTICE BOARD



[BFS Bristol](#)



[BFS Enrichment](#)



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 28 April - Thursday 1 May
Y10 Exams

Monday 28 April

Y11/13 MFL Speaking Exams - French & Home Languages
GCSE and A Level Art Exam
Y12 Geography Taster Day at University of Bristol

Tuesday 29 April

Y11/13 MFL Speaking Exams - French
GCSE and A Level Art Exam

Wednesday 30 April

Y11/13 MFL Speaking Exams - French
A Level Art Exam
A Level Photography Exam
Y13 BEP Student Partnership Board (2 students)

Thursday 1 May

A Level Photography Exam
Y10/12 Drama Trip to Bristol Old Vic (The House Party)

Friday 2 May

A Level Photography Exam

QUICK LINKS



[Lunch Menu](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Student/Parent Handbook](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

WE'RE HIRING

[Assistant Headteacher](#)

LUNCH MENU

Term 5 sees the introduction of a new lunch menu in the Dining Hall, including our Made Your Way customisable dishes!

[Wok Pot](#) [Mac My Day](#) [Caribbean](#)

Attendance and Attainment are Linked

New research by the Department for Education has shown that attendance strongly affects students' attainment.

The DfE have said: "Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE, compared to similar pupils attending 90-95% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days a year reduces the likelihood of achieving these grades by around 50%."

Please check your child's attendance on the My Child At School app – remember that to be good, an attendance record needs to be 96% or above. If you are worried about your child's attendance, please contact the Attendance Office.

ATTENDANCE



ATTENDANCE WHY IT MATTERS



Persistent absence means pupils who miss more than 10% of school every year.

-£750

For each additional day of absence between years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of **£750** in future lifetime earnings

-£10,000

Persistently absent pupils in year 10 and 11 could earn **£10,000 less** on average at age 28, compared to pupils with near perfect attendance

This rises to almost **£20k less** on average at age 28 for those who are severely absent

-£20k

For employability over a sustained period, people age 28 were around:



Less likely to be employed when persistently absent*



Less likely to be employed when severely absent*

*Compared to their peers with near perfect attendance



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



Well done to **Durdham** House for earning the most House points again this week!

Well done Durdham!

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Max A, Thomas H	Lyra W-T	Sophia B	Sophia D
Year 8	Esther J, Tiana M	Naomi H	Maynee P	Kushi K
Year 9	Angelin V	Reuben G, Jessica G	Carla D, Charlie S-R	Tia L
Year 11	Theo B	Mylo D	David U	Isla Law
Year 13	Megan T	Phoebe H-J	William W	Alexander H-J

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 4 subject teachers were asked to nominate a **Student of the Term** for their subject. Well done to all our winners!

Year 12

Subject Winners

Business - Jasmine S	Computer Science - Tawfiq P
MFL - Joey W	Drama - Caitlin O
History - Kaira M	Music - Leon L
Geography - Daisy P	Economics - Josh H
RP - Martha H	PE - Maddie S
Politics - Sophie W	Core Maths - Lorraine H
English - Teagan W	Maths - Daniel M
H&SC - Izzy B	Further Maths - Elsie C
Psychology - Eloise B	Biology - Lauren E
Sociology - Grace S	Chemistry - Alex D
Design Tech - Finn C	Physics - Isaac S

Overall Winners

12TG1 - Abdullah A	12TG3 - Elsie C
12TG2 - Freya S	12TG4 - Youseff I
	12TG5 - Thomas T

Year 13

Subject Winners

Business - Isabelle J	Design Tech - Olivia G
MFL - Ella M	Computer Science - Henry W
History - Luke S	Drama - Jess S
Geography - Lyla F	Economics - Cian L
RP - Sophie A	PE - Alistair F
Politics - Alp P	Maths - Emily C
English - Megan M	Further Maths - Jacob H
H&SC - Sankung B	Biology - Holly D
Psychology - Alice N	Chemistry - Darius O
Sociology - Phoebe L	Physics - Tom D

Overall Winners

13TG1 - Stephen F	13TG3 - Jess S
13TG2 - Antoine G	13TG4 - Maha E
	13TG5 - Adam B

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Why not get involved with this year's Royal Society of Biology Photography Competition. The theme is Restoring Biodiversity and Habitat. This topic could mean so many things and we would love to see your interpretation. We have included some suggestions below to get you started.

- A habitat being restored for wildlife, or wildlife returning to an area it once thrived in.
- The creation of wildlife-friendly gardens and community spaces, new nature reserves, wildlife-friendly farming or re-wilding on land and in the sea. At home, in towns and cities, or away from human settlements.
- Whatever you choose, we want you to showcase animals, plants or fungi within their wider ecosystem - focus on the biodiversity of your chosen habitats whether that is a small space or a wide-open landscape.
- The photographs you send us could zoom in on a subject in extreme close-up using macro-photography, or show a wider perspective on land, underwater or even from above.

Email your entries to Miss Hawes. House points for all entries and the BFS winner will be declared in June.



ART CANVAS SALE

We are launching the Durdham House Charity Art sale.

Come along to the Art Department this term to buy a blank canvas for £3 (15 x 15cm) or £5 (30 x 30cm). Please bring cash.

Get creative and paint any theme you like with any appropriate medium.

You can do this at home or join us on Wednesdays for Art Club!

Hand in your finished canvas by the end of term 5. There will be House points for all entries.

Finished art works will be on sale in term 6. All money raised will go to the House charities.



CLUBS

BFS offer a range of fantastic extra-curricular clubs that run at lunchtime and after school.

From Eco Club on Monday, Badminton on Tuesday, Programming Club on Wednesday, Science Club on Thursday and Board Games Club on Friday. There is something for everyone!

See our [Clubs Booklet](#) for more information

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chess	10:30 - 11:30	10:30 - 11:30	10:30 - 11:30	10:30 - 11:30	10:30 - 11:30
Badminton	11:30 - 12:30	11:30 - 12:30	11:30 - 12:30	11:30 - 12:30	11:30 - 12:30
Board Games	12:30 - 1:30	12:30 - 1:30	12:30 - 1:30	12:30 - 1:30	12:30 - 1:30
Science	1:30 - 2:30	1:30 - 2:30	1:30 - 2:30	1:30 - 2:30	1:30 - 2:30
Programming	2:30 - 3:30	2:30 - 3:30	2:30 - 3:30	2:30 - 3:30	2:30 - 3:30
Eco Club	3:30 - 4:30	3:30 - 4:30	3:30 - 4:30	3:30 - 4:30	3:30 - 4:30
Art	4:30 - 5:30	4:30 - 5:30	4:30 - 5:30	4:30 - 5:30	4:30 - 5:30
Sports	5:30 - 6:30	5:30 - 6:30	5:30 - 6:30	5:30 - 6:30	5:30 - 6:30

SKI TRIP 2025

Arriving in Alagna, a charming and rustic Walser village nestled close to the Swiss Border, we immediately made ourselves known to locals by trying to manoeuvre our massive coach in the wrong direction through a one-way narrow street of this UNESCO World Heritage site, very nearly taking out a couple of World Heritage buildings as we went. Thankfully, no harm was done as some friendly locals came to our rescue and, eventually, we made it through the beautiful streets of the village unscathed and to our charming and traditional Alpine hotel.



Despite our arrival late in the ski season, the Alagna resort provided access to perfect skiing conditions up to 3000m above sea level on Monte Rosa Massif – the second highest mountain in Italy. The Alagna resort is renowned as a haven for expert skiers with some challenging black runs and our more experienced BFS skiers took to these like absolute pros under the supervision of their skilled and charismatic instructor Pico, who quickly became an icon within the group. Like a duck to water, Ms Conole accompanied the top group on some difficult runs with Mr Lam in his characteristic elegant skiing style - which can only be described as 'voguing'.

Meanwhile, Mr Howard swiftly made his way up to accompanying our intermediate groups and became a skiing maestro despite a few initial tumbles. Ms Davis, Mr Laxon, Ms Bezuidenhout and Ms Jones stuck with the beginners on the nursery slope. In the true BFS spirit of 'ambition', the students did not remain



beginners for long and quickly progressed to skiing backwards and tackling jumps before moving further up the mountain onto the steeper blue runs.

Students demonstrated incredible resilience, with our large beginners' group quickly dispersing into intermediate and upper intermediate groups within the first couple of days of skiing. Notably, Alagna's blue and red runs are known to be more challenging than other resorts and our students took this level of challenge completely in their stride, bouncing back from any falls and carefully mastering how to control their speed and quickly progressing from 'snowplowing' to parallel skiing to tackle the steepest of slopes



We are immensely proud of our students who persevered despite finding skiing challenging in the first instance. A massive shout out to Cody and Hannah, who found skiing a bit tricky in the first few days but refused to give up. Both made it up to some challenging blue runs and it was amazing to see their tenacity and resilience in learning to ski and making the most of this opportunity.



Another highlight was seeing our students that had started off as beginners having the confidence and courage to attempt some tricky ski jumps later in the week under the careful guidance of their expert instructors – the video of Ben says it all!



Despite the intrepidness of our students in making the most of this opportunity, injuries were far and few between aside from a couple of altitude-induced nosebleeds. However, we must give a special shout out to brave Mr Laxon who had to be emergency-evacuated from the slopes to Borgosesia for a knee injury from an awkward fall. He showed courage in enduring the 25-hour coach journey back to BFS, not only with a torn ACL but also alongside Isaac's singing. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back on the slopes soon!



Another highlight of the trip was students engaging in the karaoke night with such gusto and delivering some old school bangers. Weirdly, the hotel restaurant saw local customers vacate very promptly after our opening number, but we will just assume this is purely coincidence!



A personal highlight was the number of individuals we crossed paths with (restaurant owners, resort rep, neighbours and Carrefour workers subjected to the students' nightly snack-stampede) commenting on how respectful and polite our students had been in comparison to other school groups they had encountered. The students really were a credit to our school community.



A huge thank you is needed for the staff who helped to run this trip – the ski trip would be impossible to run without staff willing to give up their holidays to supervise students in Italy.

A massive thank you to Ms Bezuidenhout and Ms Davis as our designated first aiders and for taking care of all our students' medical needs with such diligence during their stay.



A big thanks is also owed to Mr Howard and Mr Laxon for giving up their time and going above and beyond to make this a trip to remember for students. Thank you Mr Howard for your enthusiasm in running extra ski sessions after tuition. Thank you Mr Laxon for instilling some of your worldly wisdom in students during the 'sketch and ski' session – in the words of Mr Howard: "you're a walking Chat GPT".

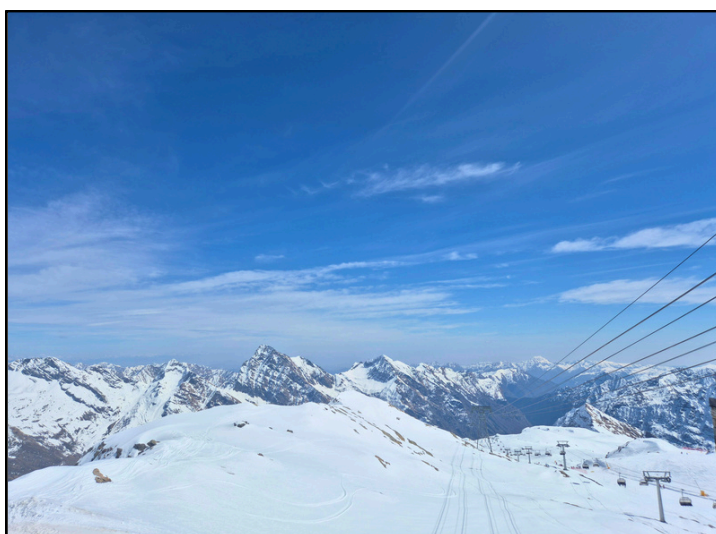
Finally, a massive thank you to Ms Meech, Ms Eynon, Ms Chown and Ms Gallacher for the incredible job that they do behind the scenes in ensuring this trip ran smoothly. You were a huge part of the success of this trip.



This trip has been a real joy to run – we are so proud of our students and have really enjoyed getting to know them in a context outside of the school environment. They have demonstrated impeccable behaviour, ambition and real sense of community. It was so lovely to see their eagerness to ski together at the end of the day, despite variances in ability, and the support and encouragement they offered one another throughout the trip.

BFS skiers of 2025, you have made this an unforgettable adventure, and we hope that this will be a trip that you will remember fondly for a long time!

Grazie!



MS JONES



MS CONOLE



MR LAM



MR HOWARD



MR LAXON



MS BEZUIDENHOUT



MS DAVIS

Sketch and Ski with Mr Laxon

It wasn't all skiing in Alagna Valsesia. Students engaged with the culture of the locale and produced these excellent sketches of Alagna Valsesia.



STUDENT REPORTS



Elizabeth - Year 12

As a nearly 30 hour coach trip drew to a close, the village of Alagna Valsesia could be seen in the distance, the lack of snow in the surrounding environment was somewhat concerning and could be felt all around. Arriving in a climate meant for shorts and t-shirts, many felt they had packed for the wrong conditions; with snow boots, scarfs and hats being left, disused at the bottom of bags for the week.

Once up in the mountains the excitement was palpable, as the larger than expected beginner group was learning the basics, the more experienced skiers were already off sending themselves down the red and black runs of the neighbouring mountains. By the end of the week many beginners had progressed to the red runs, with all beginners progressing to the more difficult blues. The views from lunch up on the mountains each day were stunning, through the snowball fights and snow angels, you could see many mountains poking up through the carpet of clouds - a sight most can only dream of.

The week was a blur of pasta and interesting desserts, waking up early for a buffet breakfast, four hours of lessons and an extra hour of free play skiing with teachers and friends from all groups, and of course many trips to the beloved Carrefour express (for late night cereal snacking); each day felt never ending. When it came time to depart emotions were high when saying farewell to our ski instructors and staff at the Idren-Hus Residence. With heavy eyes and hearts, we departed Friday afternoon for a just under 24-hour journey home (missing out Switzerland this time!).

Thank you to all the teachers who organised the trip and: Ms B and Mrs Davis, as the designated first aiders; Ms Conole, Mr Lam and Mr Howard for throwing themselves down the slopes all week with smiles on their faces; Mr Laxon for pushing everyone to make the most out of it (even when injuring himself on the penultimate day) and last but not least Ms Jones for effortless skiing and putting up with us for the week.

The memories created will definitely be hard to forget. Thank you so much for this amazing trip!!



Mila - Year 12

What I loved about the trip was not only learning how to ski, but also the atmosphere of the place we stayed at, and the views of the mountains. Even though I have never skied before, I felt so confident at the end of the week because of the encouraging instructors working by your side if you ever needed help (especially when I fell over a couple of times!). Although the journey getting there was quite long, it was so fun looking out the window and seeing all that Italy had to offer. Most of all, I loved the Italian food!



Hannah - Year 12

The school ski trip was such a fun experience which helped to boost my confidence and let me talk and get to know people who I might not normally spend time with. From learning how to do the basic ski manoeuvres at the beginning of the week to doing blue runs and a little jump by the end.

Another highlight that I have was the quiz which was done after dinner one evening and how competitive it ended up getting between all of the teams. While it may have been a long journey to get there, it was certainly worth it when we did arrive and I would definitely recommend doing it or any other trips if you are given the opportunity as it gives you a new perspective on the people that you have around you in your year group as well as some of the younger students who you might not normally interact with.



Ben - Year 12

As a first-time skier, this trip was hugely helpful in developing my abilities and becoming better and refining my technique. It was amazing to see the massive improvements and effort that everyone put in, skiing and in general to produce a great trip. I really enjoyed my time in Italy and would love to go skiing more often as a result of this trip because of my very positive experience. All in all, the trip was *snow* exciting and I had a wonderful time.



MR GOWEN

ENGLISH



POETRY BY HEART

The English Department has been delighted by the positive response students have had to the Poetry By Heart competition. Students across the School were asked to learn and recite a poem in class, with winners moving onto rehearsing and practicing for the national finals.

POETRY BY HEART

For the competition, students were asked to learn and recite by heart two poems, one pre and one post 1914. It was wonderful to see how many students spent a significant amount of time researching and learning poems from across the canon of literature. They have spent a week recording their entries with myself, and we have now sent entries to be judged by some of Britain's leading poets. Winners will be notified and given the chance to perform poetry live at Shakespeare's Globe - so we will have our fingers crossed for our students.

It really was rewarding to see how many students have a clear passion for poetry and flair for performance. Congratulations (in no particular order) to: Alba JG; Esther D; Sophie R; Zach P-G; Cara S; Oscar B; Mairead S; Sophie L; Ivy L; Emily R; Henry G; Maya W-L; and Mia B-G.



In response to the Netflix drama 'Adolescence' and rising parental concern, **Dr Susie Davies** presents:

POSITIVE MASCULINITY

RECLAIMING THE INTERNET FOR OUR ADOLESCENT BOYS AND GIRLS

Wednesday May 14th 20.00-21.30 via TEAMS

Tickets at www.papayaparents.com or via QR code. £3 per household, all proceeds to PAPAYA.

This presentation explores the impact of internet addiction, exposure to explicit content, and shifts in male identity on the rise of 'toxic masculinity.' Dr Davies will discuss positive and practical solutions for supporting our adolescent boys and girls. James Rogers will share his top tips for staying safe online and protecting your children from online harm. Please note: This webinar is aimed at parents and is not suitable for under-16s. It will not be recorded due to the sensitive nature of the content.

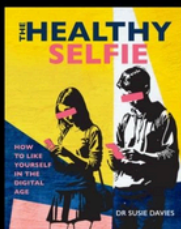


Dr Susie Davies is a GP with a special interest in adolescent mental health. She is the founder and CEO of PAPAYA and is passionate about improving mental health outcomes for today's adolescents.



James Rogers is an experienced cyber security and tech professional with over 15 years of experience in finance, consulting and public sector organisations.

A handbook for teens to help them thrive in the digital age.



'Dr Davies writes with compassion, wisdom, and authority.'

Jonathan Dibleby, best-selling author and broadcaster

'This is the book I'm going to hand my kids as soon as they become teenagers. It's the print equivalent of a cool, kind and wise big sister, guiding young people through the complexities of growing up in the smartphone-era.'

Daisy Greenwell, Co-founder, Smartphone Free Childhood

Available at thehealthyselfie.co.uk or on Amazon



As you may already be aware, the Netflix series Adolescence has been widely discussed over the last few weeks. The show provides a powerful, and at times difficult, look at the digital pressures young people face online and the role parents have to play in their digital wellbeing.

Free Parent Resources

To help, Smoothwall has created a [resource page](#). It is packed with practical advice, conversation starters, and useful insights to help parents navigate the various challenges the series brings to light.

From setting boundaries around screen time to processing upsetting online content, the resources are designed to give parents the tools and knowledge to take the next steps in supporting their child's digital wellbeing.





MS SLATER

BFS SPORTS



BFS_TeamPE



MS URCH

HEADING TO THE FINAL



Dexter C-S in Year 7 plays with Bristol Inner City Football Academy and has made it through to the U12 Junior Premier League National Vase Cup Final. The match will be played against EVO Sheffield on Saturday 3 May.

The team beat Beaconsfield in a closely contested quarterfinal which went to penalties after a 4-4 finish, with BIC winning 7-6 on penalties and then a semi-final against Welwyn Garden City over the Easter holidays, winning 4-1. Good luck for the final Dex!

BADMINTON SUCCESS



During the Easter holidays, Pranav in Year 11 represented Avon at a week-long badminton tournament at the Inter-County competition, in Nottingham. Pranav's county team won the overall competition and are county champions. A fantastic achievement, well done Pranav.

RUGBY

We are attending an *Introduction to Contact Rugby* session at Oasis Academy Brislington on Thursday 1 May (leaves BFS at 3pm, returns 6pm).

If you have enjoyed touch/tag rugby this year and you would like to learn about contact rugby, please either email Miss Slater or come to the PE office to sign up.

Deadline is Monday 28 April at 3pm.

ATHLETICS

Any student that would like to represent BFS at the English Schools Athletics Competition during the week commencing 5 May, please email Mrs Ballard with the events they would like to enter by Monday 28 April. If your child has already been to sign up in PE office, then there is no need to email.

CLUBS

Come and train to make sure that you get a game.
If you cannot train, please email Mrs Ballard to make her aware.

Monday

Athletics - track and field

All year groups
Mrs Wynne-Jones
Ms Urch

Dance Club

Year 9
Ms Rostill

Wednesday

Cricket

All year groups
Mrs Ballard
Mr Howard

Table Tennis

All year groups
Mr MacBlain

Thursday

Rounders

All year groups
Mrs MacBlain
Miss Slater

Tennis

All year groups
Mr Langeveldt

Friday

Sixth Form Sports

Every week - MUGA
Blue weeks - Sports Hall

U13 AVON BOYS HOCKEY FESTIVAL - RUNNERS UP

Our U13 boys hockey team have been training indoors since September and have been committed throughout. The Avon Boys Hockey Festival was a celebration of all the hard work and enjoyment the boys had been putting into their hockey.

The festival took place on a beautiful afternoon at Clevedon School in North Somerset where we were up against Redland Green School, Chew Valley School and Clevedon School. Our team manager, Leo in Year 9, ensured that the boys knew when they were due to be playing and supported coaching from the sideline.

The first game was against Redland Green School and the boys played great flowing hockey and looked dangerous on every attack with many opportunities to go a few goals up. The only goal was scored by Seth and we won our first match 1-0. POM was Harry.



For our second game we were up against the unknown Chew Valley School. Thanks to some impressive saves by Jamie in goal, we stayed in the game. A goal by Willoughby was scored from quick passing from the back to the D. POM was Jamie.

Our final game was against Clevedon School and the pressure was on as the winning team would be overall tournament champions. Both teams had multiple chances to score, with both goal keepers playing out of their skins. The boys pushed hard but could not quite find that winning goal. The game ended 0-0 and, unfortunately, Clevedon School took the champions spot on goal difference overall. POM for this game was Harry.

The boys were an asset to BFS and themselves and should be super proud of their efforts. We look forward to many exciting times ahead with boys hockey and this squad.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Thursday 1 May	Y7 Contact Rugby Festival	Oasis Academy Brislington
Tuesday 6 May	Boys - English Schools Athletic Competition	Brimsham Green School
Wednesday 7 May	Project Rugby	Ashton Gate
Thursday 8 May	Girls - English Schools Athletic Competition	Brimsham Green School
Monday 12 May	Y9 & Y10 Rounders vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe	Oasis Academy Brightstowe
Tuesday 13 May	Y7 & Y8 Minibus Athletics - Bristol Schools	Kellaway Avenue
Wednesday 14 May	U13 & U14 Cricket	St Monica's
Thursday 15 May	Y9 & Y10 Minibus Athletics - Bristol Schools	Kellaway Avenue



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 this week's employer talk, students heard from three employees of Great Western Railway (GWR) about working in rail transport. Emily Tovey is GWR's Bristol Guards Manager, Dwain White is the Deputy Area Revenue Protection Manager and Laura Maddison is a coach and mentor for apprentices. Students learnt about the exciting apprenticeship opportunities at GWR in customer service and engineering, which provide apprentices with a range of experiences across which provide apprentices with a range of experiences across the business and on-the-job training. The apprenticeships also offer access to the Duke of Edinburgh Business Gold Award, which helps them further develop their skillset through volunteering, a residential programme and expedition. It's also useful for answering interview questions in the GWR selection process.



Each of the speakers shared their varied career journeys before joining GWR. Emily was a youth worker and estate agent and was working in a pastoral role at a secondary school before joining GWR as a conductor. She now helps to manage the safety and wellbeing of GWR's train guards. Dwain worked with young people in prison, where he learnt that the "biggest weapon is your mouth". He told students how customer service is at the heart of all jobs at GWR. "We look for people who like to talk to other people," he said. His role now is managing a team whose job is to catch people who haven't paid their train fare, something that costs GWR huge amounts of money each year. Part of the role is keeping on top of technology so they can stop tech-based fraud like the creation of fake passes, which they can now do by scanning all cards. There are lots of job opportunities for young people with IT skills to help GWR stay ahead of the fraudsters. Laura told students about her journey from trainee hairdresser to a job in payroll in the GWR finance department, through HR and 'learning and development' to her current role working with apprentices.

With 375 different types of jobs, from ticket sales and on-board services to control room management and inspecting the wheels of trains, GWR offers many varied career possibilities for people with a wide range of skills, interest and backgrounds. Many thanks to Emily, Dwain and Laura for shining a light on working life on the railways.



COMING UP...

2 May: Construction/House building

9 May: Manufacturing

16 May: Cyber Security

23 May: Pharmacy

13 June: Optometry

CAN YOU HELP?

Are you able to offer Work Experience to one of our Year 12 students?

This year's work experience runs Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 July. If you work locally and are able to offer a placement, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch: careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.
Thank you!

University of Bristol Open Day

UOB's next Undergraduate Open Days is taking place on Saturday 14 June and is a fantastic way for students to explore the city centre campus, take part in academic taster sessions, meet current students and learn more about what life at Bristol University is like.

Register [using this link](#). Places for sessions can be competitive, so sign up as soon as possible.

University Centre at SGS College Open Day

You can hear from academics and current students about their experiences, take a look around campus and question expert advisers about the application process and preparing to start university level study.

Date: Thursday 1 May, 5.30pm

[Register here](#).

Meet the Russell Group Webinars

A series of webinars for anyone interested in applying for a Russell Group university (or finding out more about which Universities are in the Russell Group). Especially relevant to Year 12 students but may be of interest to lower year groups too. If you cannot make the times of the live seminars you can sign up for the recordings. Find out more [here](#).

Thinking of applying to university in 2026?

Sign up for this free online conference taking place on Saturday 26 April, 10am-1pm and attend sessions on choosing a course, effective personal statements and managing your money, with admissions experts from the Universities for Bath, Cardiff, Exeter, Keele, Lancaster, and Warwick.

[Register here](#).

Thinking of taking a gap year?

Check out this [Projects Abroad](#) video on the benefits of taking a gap year and the projects they have on offer.

Hospital Observation Placements

Three-day work observation placements for students who are just finishing Year 12 and will be applying through UCAS to medical schools in Autumn 2025.

Where: Southmead Hospital

What: Exposure to a variety of hospital specialties. Meet medical students, doctors, and other members of the healthcare team to learn about what a career in medicine entails. Only 36 places. Success will depend on the quality of the application. [Apply here](#).

Interested in a career in Early Years?

This is a [great resource](#) if you are interested in a career in a Nursery/Early Years setting.

Considering a career in psychology?

Explore the fascinating world of psychology with a series of free webinars brought to you by one of the UK's leading psychology departments at Bangor University. Whether you are interested in a single topic or want to join them all, the webinars are tailored to fit your interests. Plus, you will get an opportunity to interact directly with academics during live Q&A sessions. [Find out more](#).

Tesco Retail Apprenticeship

Applications now open! Thinking of leaving Year 11 but don't know what to do next? If you fancy earning over £22k while you learn, the Tesco Stronger Starts Retail Apprenticeship could be for you.

No qualifications required.

[Find out more and apply](#).

Funded Summer Work Experience

The InvestIN Scholarship Scheme offers students aged 15-18 the chance to attend a fully-funded one-week in-person [Summer Work Experience](#). With 15 career paths to choose from, you will gain real-world insights, meet industry professionals and take part in hands-on simulations that will bring your future career to life.

[Find out more](#).

NHS Finance Placement

The NHS Finance Insights placement scheme offers paid work experience in NHS organisations throughout England to individuals aged 18 and above, who do not plan to attend university and come from lower socio-economic backgrounds. The scheme aims to attract diverse talent from local communities served by the NHS into the finance sector.

[Apply here](#).

Becoming a Doctor - Discovery Day

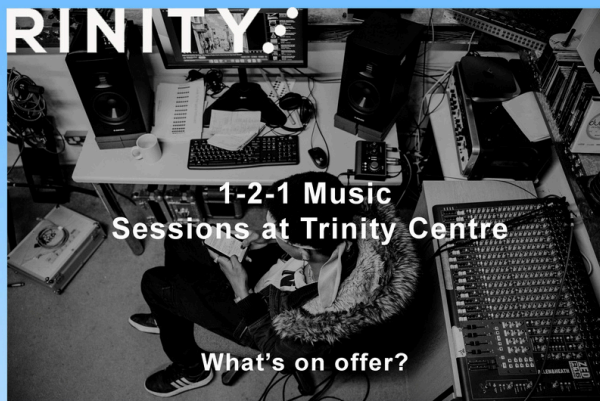
One-day conference at Southmead Hospital. Hear from doctors in different branches of medicine and at different stages of their training. There will be a chance to talk to doctors in smaller groups and try out some practical skills.

Saturday 21 June 2025. Open to students in Year 10 or above.

[Register here](#)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

TRINITY:



1-2-1 Music Sessions at Trinity Centre

What's on offer?

We provide personalized music sessions for young people (ages 11-25) who aren't currently in school, college, or employment.

Music is a powerful way to connect, and we've seen incredible success stories including:

- ✓ Re-engaging with education
- ✓ Boosting confidence and focus
- ✓ Building friendships through music

Our experienced tutors cover a range of skills, including:

- 🎧 Music production & mixing
- 🎹 Piano
- 🎸 Guitar & bass
- 🥁 Vocal recording
- 🥁 Drums

We meet young people where they are, whether they want to record a drill track, learn a jazz piece, or explore something in between.

Our tutors are also working musicians, offering real-world insights into the industry.

👤 **Cost:** £40 per session

We are also offering 1 **FREE SESSION** to new attendees Interested? **Get in touch!** 📧

✉ Amos amos@trinitybristol.org.uk
✉ Pete pete@trinitybristol.org.uk

TRINITY COMMUNITY ARTS, THE TRINITY CENTRE, TRINITY RD, BS2 0NW
INFO@TRINITYBRISTOL.ORG.UK, 0117 935 1200

WHATEVER STAGE YOU'RE AT.

TRY A FULL SESSION FOR FREE

FIND OUT MORE
PQACADEMY.COM

PQA BRISTOL

FRIDAY 6-18 YEAR OLDS | 5.15PM - 8.30PM

SATURDAY POPPETS - 4-5 YEAR OLDS

9.45AM - 11.15AM & 11.30AM - 1PM

SATURDAY 6-18 YEAR OLDS

9.45AM - 1PM & 1.45PM - 5PM

COTHAM SCHOOL, BRISTOL, BS6 6DT

pqacademy.com | carly.bond@pqacademy.com

SOUTHMEAD REPAIR CAFE

LAST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH, GREENWAY CENTRE, 12 - 3 PM



Bring your items to fix, or volunteer to help others to fix theirs. Donations welcome. Refreshments available.

for monthly details follow us @greenwaycentre

For more info contact Eve,
0117 950 3335
✉ evepayne@southmead.org



We are a member of International **REPAIR CAFE** Foundation

Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road, Southmead, BS10 5PY. www.southmead.org

IMPERIAL NC Junior Open Trials

TRAINING:
U12 & Dev - Mon, 6-7:30pm
U14 & U16 - Tues 6-7:30pm

CITY ACADEMY, BS5 9JH
6:00-7:30PM

MON 12/5 - U12/U14

TUES 13/5 - U16

MON 19/5 - U16

TUES 20/5 - U12/14



WE'RE LOOKING FOR PLAYERS TO JOIN OUR CLUB! WE WELCOME PLAYERS FROM ALL POSITIONS ACROSS ALL TEAMS. WE OFFER **U12, U14 AND U16** ACROSS BOTH OUR ACADEMY AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP:
FRIDAY 9TH MAY



Concert



ALVIRNE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND & CHOIR

On UK Tour From USA

Musical Directors: Mike Gallagan & Rob Scagnelli

Trinity-Henleaze United
Reformed Church Bristol

Saturday 26th April 2025

7.30pm



rayburntours



COME ALONG and support these fantastic students from the US, who are touring the UK

Free concert

26th April at 7:30pm

Trinity-Henleaze URC, Waterford Road, BS9 4BT

No need to pre-book, just turn up on the day!

Band Program:

Fearless, composed by Carol Brittin Chambers

Simple Gifts, arranged by Frank Ticheli

Loch Lomond, arranged by Frank Ticheli

The Saints' Hallelujah, arranged by Luther Henderson and adapted by Michael Brown

Zeus: King of the Gods, composed by Rob Romeyn

Choir Program:

You've Got A Friend, composed by Carole King and arranged by Mac Huff

Omnia Sol, composed by Z. Randall Stroope

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel, arranged by Roger Emerson

What I Did For Love, arranged by Audrey Snyder

Day By Day, arranged by Dick Reynolds

Satellite, composed by Laila Biali and arranged by Will Clements



**THE NATIONAL
YOUTH ORCHESTRA**
Play Your Part



The Orchestra of 2026

The greatest musical
adventure of your life.

Reach new heights as a musician with world-class musical coaching and support. Play epic orchestral masterworks and stunning ensemble music. Develop your confidence by inspiring other people your age. Open up your world.

Who can join NYO Orchestra?

Musicians aged 13-18, who play an orchestral instrument at a level equivalent to Grade 8 (no graded exams needed). The application and audition process is completely free, with travel and accommodation bursaries available.

Apply Now

nyo.org.uk

Grade 8 or equivalent. Apply by 19 May 2025.