

Newsletter



What's In This Issue?

[Notice Board](#)
[House News](#)
[Achievements](#)
[Subject Update:](#)
[Religion & Philosophy](#)
[Sixth Form](#)
[Food Tech](#)
[SEMH](#)
[Sports](#)
[Careers](#)

A NOTE FROM MR MACBLAIN

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Thursday 8 May marked a particularly significant date in our national calendar – VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day. This year we commemorate the 80th anniversary of that historic moment in 1945 when the Second World War in Europe came to an end. On that day, people across Britain and the Allied nations took to the streets in celebration, marking the end of nearly six years of conflict with Germany. But it was not the end of the conflict, nor was it an end to the impact the war had on people. The war against Japan did not end until August 1945, and the political, social and economic repercussions of the Second World War were felt long after Germany and Japan surrendered.

The 80th anniversary offers us a powerful opportunity to remember the courage, sacrifice and resilience of those who lived through the war – not only the soldiers who fought on the front lines but also the countless civilians who contributed to the war effort and endured hardship at home. It is a time to reflect on the importance of peace, unity, and the values that bind us together as a community and a nation.



MR MACBLAIN



In school this week, students have spent time looking at what VE was and why we still remember its importance today, helping our students to understand the historical significance of VE Day and encouraging them to appreciate the lessons of the past and the importance of remembering those who came before us. We do hope you either found time to reflect and/or found time to celebrate.

Below is a link to the Imperial War Museum which offers a more comprehensive look at VE Day in 1945 and how people celebrated the event. [What You Need To Know About VE Day](#).



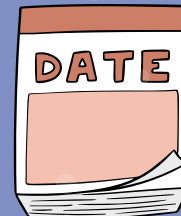
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 12 May - Friday 20 June

Y11 & Y13 Summer Exam Series

Monday 12 May

Y9 MenACWY/DtP Vaccines

Tuesday 13 - Friday 23 May

Y8 EoY Exams

Wednesday 14 - Thursday 15 May

Y7 & 8 Teacake Challenge, 3pm

Y9 DofE Bronze Award Assessed Expedition (Group 2)

Thursday 15 May

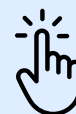
Y10 Chemistry Festival at University of Bath

Y10 GCSE Climbing at The Church, St Werburgh's

Friday 16 - Saturday 17 May

Y9 DofE Bronze Award Assessed Expedition (Group 1)

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

WE'RE HIRING

Teacher of Science

Medical Appointments

Where possible, please book routine medical appointments outside of school hours – even a few missed lessons can make a big difference to your child's education.

For unavoidable appointments, please email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk at least 48 hours in advance of the appointment, and include: the time and date that you will collect your child; the time that you expect them to return to school; and evidence of the appointment (such as an appointment letter or text from the medical practice).


Please send your child to school before and after the appointment wherever possible. The legal registers are taken at 8.30am and 1.20pm, so being in school at these times will mean getting an attendance mark.

Students should make their way to Main Reception to sign out and will be sent to the carpark gate when their parent/carer buzzes for them. Students should be returned to the carpark gate after their appointment.


SEND COFFEE MORNING

Come along to our SEND Coffee Morning, hosted in partnership with Autism Independence. At the event you can find out more about the Learning Disability Register and Annual Health Checks.

It does not matter if you do not have a diagnosis, we are here to support every family in Bristol. We have limited space so would kindly request you email sen@bristolfreeschool.org.uk to register your interest.



Autism Independence





Coffee Morning to find out more about the Learning Disability Register and Annual Health Checks

Thursday 5th of June 2025

9am

Bristol Free School
Concorde Drive, Bristol, BS10 6NJ



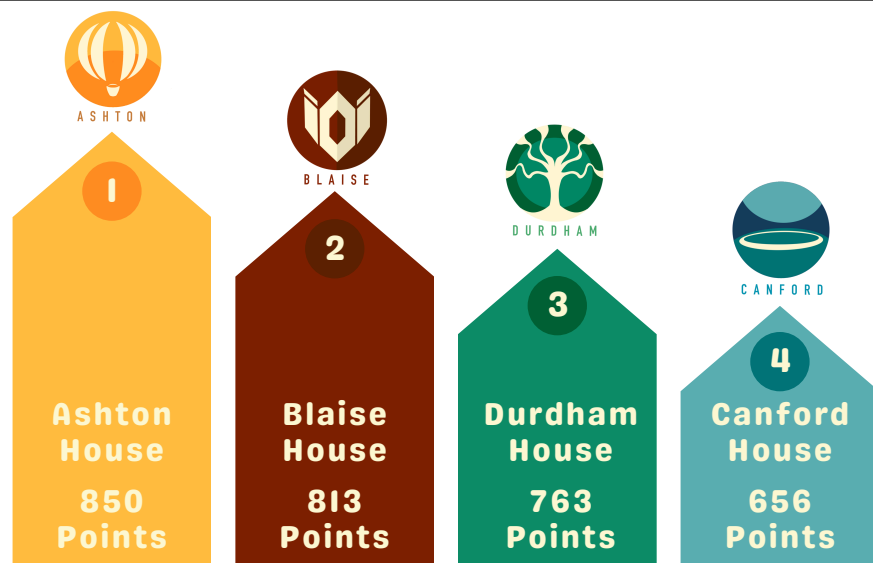
ATTENDANCE



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Ashton!

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Jamie D	Sophie R	Louis G	Noah C
Year 8	Sam S	Max R, Noah H	Rupert C	Oliver D
Year 9	Ethan C	Thomas O, Dylan I	Morgan S	Andrew B, Lukian S, Oliver L
Year 10	Franz C	James S	Finlay A, Harley P	Muhammed H
Year 13	Finley W	Isaac M, Jude W	William W	Jack A

RSPCA Young Photographer Awards

Love animals? Enjoy taking photographs? Then enter this amazing competition, open to anyone aged 18 or under. Help the RSPCA create a kinder world for animals by sharing your inspiring images. Enter [here](#) and email your entries to Miss Hawes. House points for all entries.



PHOTOGRAPHY

TRAILBLAZING HEROES COMPETITION

This is your chance to champion the sustainability trailblazers leading the way to protect our planet!

Students aged 11 to 14 are invited to enter this competition run by E.ON. There are some amazing prizes up for grabs and all entries handed in to Miss Hawes will receive House points.

Pick a trailblazer, tell us why they are inspiring and submit your entry by 23 May. More details [here](#).

Entry by Mia B-G in Year 7

My trailblazing hero

Wangari Maathai was an inspirational Kenyan activist, leader, founder, political advocate and environmentalist. She was also the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to reforestation, having organised the planting of over 30 million trees!

Their achievements in sustainability

Wangari founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977 which is a grassroots campaign encouraging Kenyans (especially women) to plant trees. These are a source of food, money, clean air and they help promote reforestation.

She used her fame to advocate for women's rights, democracy and human rights. She also criticised corruption and land grabbing.

Their top trailblazing skills

Wangari had an immense array of skills. She was an excellent orator, delivering multiple speeches and lectures on environmental issues and sustainable development.

She said, "it's the little thing that citizens do. That's what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees."

She also spread her message through writing and wrote books including 'The Green Belt Movement; planting trees, planting peace', and 'Unbowed: A memoir'.

How they inspire you or others

She motivated Kenyans to plant 30 million trees, and her work inspired the UN, leading to millions of trees being planted worldwide. She has inspired me to make to make a difference by planting some trees in my own garden.



TEACAKE CHALLENGE

Year 7 and 8 are invited to enter the Tunnock's Teacake Challenge.

Using your artistic creativity and food preparation skills, create a piece of culinary art by styling a plate of food on the theme of "Culture and Celebrations" - remember to include a Tunnock's Teacake!

Want to take part?

Sign up with Mrs Slade in CG23.

We will provide you with one teacake. You will then need to bring:

- Your design
- Ingredients to make the different elements of your design e.g. fruit for coulis
- A plate/board (if it is specific to your design)

The competition will take place on Wednesday 14 May, 3 - 4.15pm. The two winning students will be entered into the national competition.



ACHIEVEMENTS



FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Dexter C-S, in Year 7, and his team Bristol Inner City Football Academy. On Saturday 3 May they competed in the U12 Junior Premier League National Vase Cup Final. The team won the match 4-1, with a tremendous goal from Dexter!

Congratulations, we are very proud of you and your achievements! Keep playing, we cannot wait to hear more of your football journey as you head through BFS!



TAEKWON-DO GOLD

Oliver M in Year 12 competed recently in the European Taekwon-Do Championships in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Oliver won a gold medal and became the European champion, defending his title in the Individual Male Junior Patterns category. An impressive achievement - well done!



WORLD CHAMPION

Amira L-A in Year 7 has won gold at the ICU Cheerleading World Championships in Florida alongside her teammates on Team England Adaptive Abilities Unified Advanced.

Amira was one of two Predator Athletics Cheer members competing in the world championships, which saw more than 70 nations compete in a celebration of athleticism, artistry, and teamwork.

It has always been Amira's dream to go to the Cheerleading World Championships in Florida since becoming a cheerleader at the age of 6 and now she has not only fulfilled her dream but has also come back as a World Champion.

Fantastic!





What has been happening in...



Religion & Philosophy?



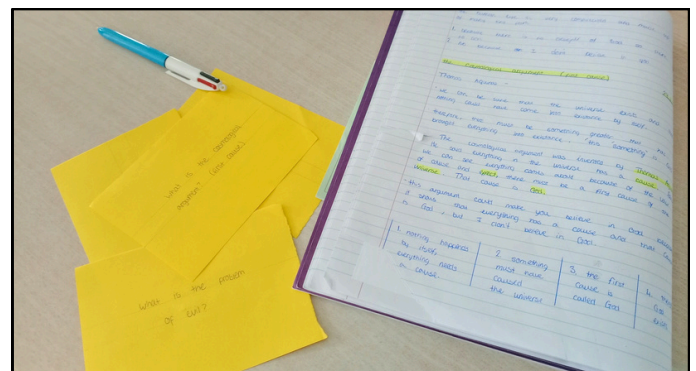
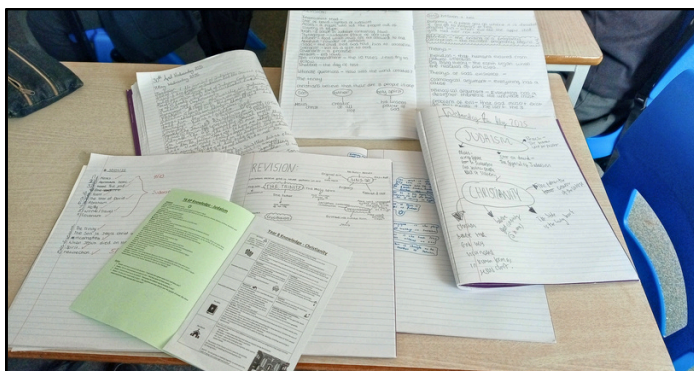
Year 8 students are preparing for their end of year exams and have been studying different 'active' revision and recall activities and styles.

In lessons this week they practised 'silent debate', wrote key words on flash cards and quizzed partners. Many also made revision maps from memory and used their knowledge organisers to add details. The Year 8 end of year exam will be on Jewish and Christian beliefs, and philosophical questions on 'Does God exist' and 'The problem of evil'.



MISS MUSA

YEAR 8



YEAR 10

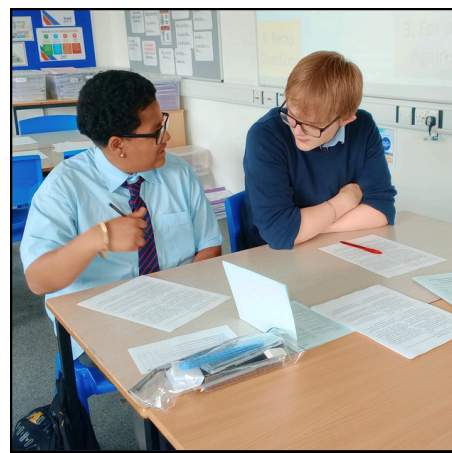
Year 10 students have been working exceptionally hard on their RP work. Having completed their two mock examination this academic year, we are nearing the final, and real, GCSE Short Course examination on Wednesday 21 May.

Some students attended the first of three Period 7 sessions this week that focused on 'Theme A: Relationships and Families'. In this session, students moved around various activities to practise their exam technique and check their knowledge, including creating flash cards, trying exam questions, and completing matching exercises.

On Wednesday 14 May from 3-4pm in DF23, we will focus on 'Theme B: Religion, Peace and Conflict', before a final Period 7 session on Monday 19 May. In this session, students may bring exam practice answers they would like marked, ask any final questions and be reminded of exam technique.

We all wish them well with their final preparations and the first of their GCSE qualifications.

**Your hard
work will
pay off!**



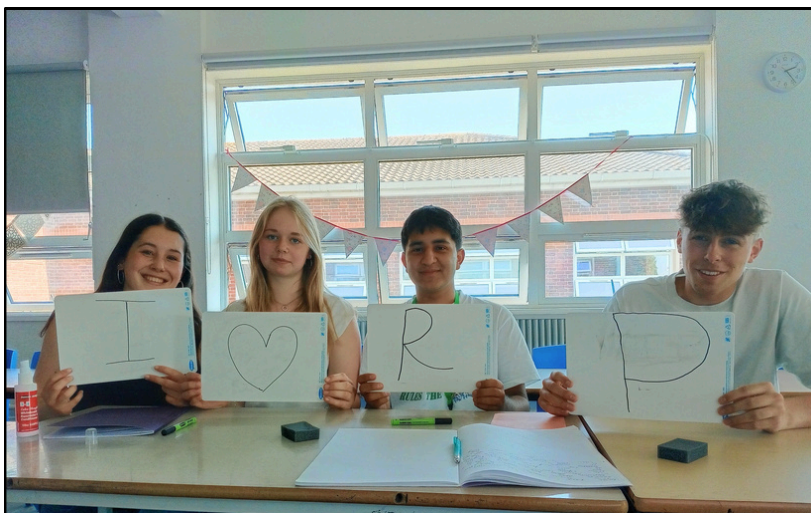
MRS STUTTARD

YEAR 12



MR SMITH

Our Year 12 class will soon be taking their end of year exams and have almost covered all of the content for the Philosophy and Ethics portion of their course (with the Christianity section being taught predominantly in Year 13). They have recently been working on the ethics of Immanuel Kant, who wrote that 'life without reason and morality, has no value'.



YEAR 13



Our Year 13 class are nearing the end of the course and have just written their final timed essay before a few of them will be going on flexible study leave. They have recently been working on the dialogue between Christianity and philosophy/ethics - with recent exam question statements including 'Natural Moral Law gives Christians clear guidance on issues surrounding wealth' and 'Belief in free will undermines religious authority for Christians'.

SIXTH FORM

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST SCHOOL COLLABORATION



Myriam said of her day, "It was such a surreal experience finally meeting everyone face-to-face after two years of learning online. The opportunity to connect with my teachers and peers in person made the day truly special. Joining the French lesson and tackling exercises together with my classmates made me feel part of a wider school community. The kindness and hospitality I experienced at BFS made me feel completely at home. I'm incredibly grateful to STA for investing in my academic and personal growth and for reminding me that being part of this community means having the support of an incredible network of schools. It's opportunities like these that make our Sixth Form so special!"

The students, her teachers and the whole school at BFS made her feel really welcome, and she had a great day, seeing another school in action and having an experience that will support her as she takes steps to get ready for university next year.

The number of students studying languages at A Level is reducing year on year and both schools wanted to ensure this student had the opportunity to study French, a subject she would like to take forward at university.

St Andrew the Apostle School said, "We are extremely grateful for the support that BFS and its A Level French teachers, Mr Nouas and Dr Clavel, have given Myriam. Well done Myriam for exhibiting the resilience to pursue your studies in this way; we are very proud of the person you are and thank you again to BFS and its staff for supporting an RET student from afar. We are definitely glad she got to meet you!"

Two Russell Education Trust Schools have collaborated over the past two years to support a Sixth Form student in her quest for an A Level in French. After doing brilliantly in her GCSEs at St Andrew the Apostle School, Myriam wanted to stay at STA Sixth Form and study for her A Levels (including French). With BFS already having a cohort of students studying French, it offered to support Myriam and she has been studying French A Level online through Microsoft Teams for the past two years, ably assisted by the teachers at BFS.

However, Myriam had never met her classmates or her teachers in person. That was until 24 April when the schools arranged for Myriam to travel from her home in North London to Bristol to visit the school, meet her classmates and have an in person double French A Level lesson!



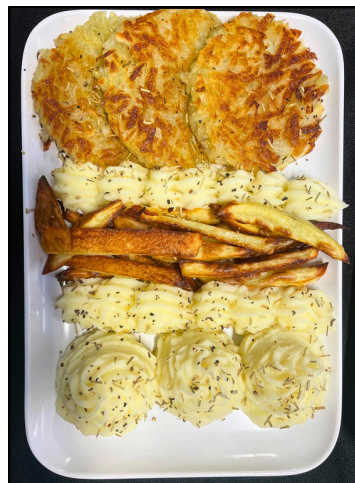


MRS SLADE

FOOD TECH

YEAR 10

Year 10 GCSE students took part in a potato challenge lesson. They looked at different cooking methods and methods of heat energy transfer with a potato. Congratulations to the winners, Noam and Melody.



SEMH

Social, Emotional & Mental Health

MEET THE TEAM



Mrs Gardiner
SEMH Manager



Miss Perks
SEMH HLTA



Miss Rickwood
SEMH HLTA

We are the SEMH Team at BFS and we help students with their SEMH needs. We support students in a variety of ways which include 1-2-1 support sessions, group interventions, support to (and in) lessons, support to regulate when needed, restoratives with teachers, support to refer to other internal and external interventions. Our aim is to offer additional support to help students better understand their feelings and emotions, learn how to self-regulate, and support students to learn strategies to improve their emotional wellbeing. We strive to build good and positive relationships with students which help them feel supported and improve self-esteem and confidence. Our hope is that with this support, alongside the support from their teachers and the school community, students will be able to access lessons and build skills that will serve them going into further education and work.

The group interventions we run are Social Skills, Resilience, Friendships, Wellbeing, Worry, and Understanding Anger. If you would like to find out more, please email SEN@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.



MRS BALLARD

BFS SPORTS



ATHLETICS

This week we attended the English Schools Athletics competition. The boys and girls events were held on separate days due to the number of schools competing.

The atmosphere was fantastic, the sun was shining and everyone performed brilliantly. The students were competing in their year groups for points, with all students taking part in two events.



We look forward to finding out the results and where we ranked when the results are released next week.

Well done to all that competed.

Please join us for Athletics Club on Monday after school if you would like to be considered for future Athletics events.

CLUBS

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

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

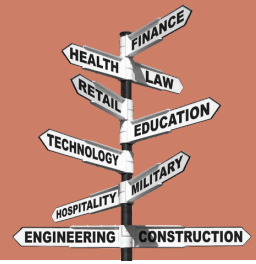
UPCOMING FIXTURES

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 Trust
Thursday 15 May	Y9 & Y10 Minibus Athletics - Bristol Schools	Kellaway Avenue
Thursday 15 May	Y7 & Y8 Rounders vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe	BFS



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

We had a great turn-out for this week's Employer Talk from Encirc, an international, Avonmouth-based, glass bottle manufacturer, working with a range of household name brands, including Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Britvic and J2O.



Sarah Abernethy and Maddison Lockley from Encirc's Early Careers Team explained to students what the business does, and gave some useful information about work experience opportunities, as well as the firm's Ignite programme, which offers apprenticeship programmes and a graduate scheme.

It was important for students to hear about a business that makes things, when so many careers are in service industries. There is lots of scope at Encirc for budding engineers to get work experience and apprenticeships or to join the graduate programme. Sarah was also clear that there are many other careers at Encirc, and the work experience programme gives students access to all the different parts of the business, from production and manufacturing to sales and marketing, HR and finance.

Encirc is a global player in the glass market, having been bought by Spanish multinational Vidrala in 2015. With several sites across the UK, Europe and the world, there are plenty of travel opportunities for staff, as well as wellbeing programmes and a strong set of values underlying the business' activities. One of those values is sustainability, and the business has set itself an ambitious target of making zero-emission glass by 2030. Sarah reminded us that glass is fully recyclable, which means it has a much longer life than plastic, making it a more sustainable product. She told us how important it is for us to dispose of our glass in recycling bins as, to make glass, Encirc needs old glass.



This is a big business operating on a global scale. Encirc produces around 3 billion containers and fills around 400 million litres each year. If you want to know if your glass drinks bottle is made by Encirc, look for the Encirc logo (a small 'e' in a circle) at the bottom of the bottle.

Many thanks to Sarah and Maddison for coming in and giving such an informative talk to our students.

COMING UP...

16 May: Cyber Security (Logiq)

23 May: Pharmacy (NHS)

6 June: Police (UWE)

13 June: Optometry

**SAVE
THE DATE**

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!

Support for Parents

If your child is thinking about applying to university next year (current Y12 students), you may benefit from a support webinar from UCAS expert Claire Parkinson from Royal Holloway, University of London. She will cover: How do you apply to university? What is UCAS? How do you make the most of Open Days? What are the main steps to take between now and September 2026? What is student finance and how do you apply? How and when should you apply for accommodation?

Tuesday 13 May, 5-6pm. Register [here](#).

Do you want to find out more about Uni?

[The Students' Guide to University 2025](#) is a comprehensive guide to university which will allow you to make an informed choice about whether or not to go to university. It includes articles to help you decide whether university is right for you, what you should study, and where you should study it. Articles have been provided by over 65 university representatives from across the UK, plus expert leaders from outside the sector, such as Martin Lewis, whose guide to student finance is well worth a read.

Discover Bristol

The University of Bristol is launching a new virtual Discover Bristol project for Year 13 students starting in Autumn 2025. Applications have not opened yet, but you can sign up on this [expression of interest form](#) to be notified when applications do open. Successful participants of Discover Bristol will receive a guaranteed contextual offer or interview, depending on the subject. Well worth applying, especially if you are the first one in your family considering going to university or if you are part of a group that historically is less likely to attend university. We don't know much about this programme yet, but if it is like similar programmes they have run in recent years, students from BFS have had great success in receiving very good offers (sometimes two grades below the normal offer) as a result of attending these courses.

University of Bristol Insight Days

If you are in Year 12 and thinking about going to university, you may be interested in a University of Bristol Student Faculty Insight Conference. Led by current undergraduate students, these conferences aim to inspire and inform students about studying at university. [Find out more.](#)

Considering a career in optometry?

The Bright Stars University Scholarship is open to Year 12 STEM students who are planning to apply for university this autumn. The scholarship offers future Optometry students the chance to receive £10,000 over four years and paid part-time work and mentorship at a Specsavers practice.

[Find out more.](#)

Also come along to our Optometry employer talk on Friday 13 June to find out more about the profession.

AON Work Experience

AON, a global professional services firm, are offering their three-day Work Insights Programme to Year 12 and 13 students in Bristol from 2-4 July. Recommended to students interested in careers in the corporate world, especially in business or finance, or interested in exploring apprenticeships after they finish Y13.

Students who participate in the programme will have access to exclusive support to apply for Aon apprenticeships. Deadline has been extended to 11 May.

[Apply here.](#)

Are you a budding architect?

This could be a useful resource if you want to learn more about what it is like to study architecture at university.

[Architecture School](#) introduces you to the essential tools, techniques, and terminology of architectural design. It offers a range of free tutorials that cover the key topics most first-year architecture students encounter.

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.](#)

COMMUNITY NOTICES



UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACTS OF SMARTPHONES ON BRISTOL'S CHILDREN

TUESDAY MAY 20TH 19.00-21.00 AT REDLAND GREEN SCHOOL, BS6 7EH

Tickets £3 (proceeds to PAPAYA) available via QR code or at www.papayaparents.com

- **The link between smartphones and mental health** – Dr Susie Davies
- **Online Safety** – Rose Brown
- **Smartphone research in Bristol** – Dr Paul Redford and Dr Ben Knight
- **The impact of schools going smartphone free** – Clare Fernyhough
- **The positive impact of Yondr pouches on Orchard School** – Melanie Sweet
- **Resilience and wellbeing for adolescence** – Nicola Macdonald
- **Personal stories** – Issy and Sofia, aged 16
- **Q&A session**
- **Ideas Hub** – explore smartphone alternatives, learn about parental controls and online safety, connect with the speakers, and find out how to book a PAPAYA workshop for your school.



Book tickets here: [TicketTailor](#)



BRISTOL YOUTH FOLK DAY – SATURDAY 7 JUNE WORKSHOPS, CONCERT, CEILIDH

Calling all those aged 10-25 and interested in folk music!



Join us for an exciting workshop fusing folk music, song and dance, with sessions exploring social music-making and singing. This event is open to musicians and singers of all backgrounds and experiences.

Teaching is led by Melrose Quartet, which comprises Nancy Kerr, James Fagan, Jess and Richard Arrowsmith: four highly acclaimed musicians, singers, and educators.

Presented by Melrose Quartet and The National Youth Folk Troupe of England

Age: Ages 10 – 25 (under 16s must be signed in and collected by an adult)

All info here: [Bristol Youth Folk Day](#)

A full day of options – morning workshop, afternoon concert, evening ceilidh.



Shine
HOLIDAY CLUBS

NETBALL TRAINING CAMP

Open To Netballers Year 7 - 11 Who
Want To Improve Their Fitness

Friday 30th May 10:00 - 13:00
Bradley Stoke Community School (BS32)

£15 Per Child

Book your place at **MyShine.co.uk**

SAFE SPACE YOUTH CLUB

A fun, friendly place for young people!

SOUTHMEAD RUGBY CLUB
WEDNESDAYS | 5-7 PM

£1 ENTRY • CASH ONLY

ALL AGES WELCOME

(Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult)

What's on?

- Fun activities & games
- Outdoor space for football & more
- Food and snacks available
- Meet new friends in a safe, welcoming environment



Contact Tracey for more info

f SRFC Safe Space Youth Club

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

BAOS YOUTH PRESENTS

Baos Youth

**REDGRAVE
THEATRE**

OUR HOUSE NW1

It must be love

The Madness Musical

**By Tim
Firth**

**Music & Lyrics by
Madness**

**28-31 MAY
2025**

THE REDGRAVE THEATRE
Weds 28th - 7:30pm
Thurs 29th - 2:30pm & 7:30pm
Fri 30th - 7:30pm
Sat 31st - 1:30pm & 6:30pm
Tickets £21 plus booking fee

SCAN FOR TICKETS

