

Newsletter

Mobile Phone-Free School

- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom
- 74% of schools saw an improvement in student behaviour
- 65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance

What's In This Issue?

- Notice Board Achievements House News Subject Update: English
- Food Tech Science Sports Careers Community

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Important Initiative at BFS: Mobile Phone-Free School for Years 7–11

Following extensive research and consultation, we are excited to announce that Bristol Free School will be implementing a mobile phone-free policy for students in Years 7 to 11. This will be facilitated through the use of **Yondr lockable pouches**, a system already adopted by several local schools with positive results.

This change will apply to all current students in Years 7 to 10, and will be introduced

to Year 6 students as part of their induction. We believe this initiative will significantly reduce mobile phone dependency, particularly among students who are heavily engaged with social media. Our aim is to create a more focused, connected, and distraction-free learning environment. Sixth Form students will be exempt from this policy and may continue to use their mobile phones in the Sixth Form area and during lessons, where appropriate.

What This Means for You

To support this initiative, we are asking parents and carers to purchase a Yondr pouch at a one-time cost of £15. This pouch will be used throughout your child's time at BFS. Students who do not have a pouch will not be permitted to bring a mobile phone onto the school premises.

We understand that this cost may be a concern for some families. To ensure inclusivity, we will use Pupil Premium funding to support students eligible for Free School Meals or those who complete a bursary application form.

Learn More

Mr East, who is leading this initiative, has recorded a short video explaining the reasons behind this change and how the system will work at the beginning and end of the school day - **Becoming a Phone**-**<u>Free School.</u>** We will be sending out a follow-up letter next week with full details and payment instructions. We are confident that this initiative will bring many positive benefits and will also support you in managing mobile phone use at home.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards, **Mrs S King** Headteacher







MRS KING

NOTICEBOARDImage: BFS_BristolImage: BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 19 May - Friday 23 May Y8 EoY Exams

Monday 19 May - Friday 20 June Y11 & Y13 Summer Exam Series

Tuesday 20 May

Sports Leaders at WoT Academy KS1 Sports Day Barcelona Trip Information Evening

Wednesday 21 May

Y10 GSCE RP Exam Y8/9 Maths Trip to UWE

Thursday 22 May

Sports Leaders at WoT Academy KS2 Sports Day Y10 Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail Y10 GCSE PE Climbing at St Werburgh's

Friday 23 May

Period Health Day - Event in DG01 UWE Sociology Student Conference

Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May Half Term - School closed to all students

Holidays

Please do not book term time holidays as they will not be authorised. Every day of absence is a loss of 6 lessons to your child. Unauthorised holidays will result in penalty notice fines from Bristol City Council.

Current fines are:

TTENDANCE

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- 1st offence in a rolling 3-year period: £80 per parent per child (rising to £160 if not paid within 21 days).
- 2nd offence in a rolling 3-year period: £160 per parent per child.
- 3rd offence in a rolling 3-year period: prosecution or other legal measures will be considered.
 Prosecution can lead to fines of up to £2500, 3 months' imprisonment and a criminal record.

These measures are usually taken for 10 unauthorised absences (10 half days) within a tenweek period; however, fines will also be considered for parents and carers who repeatedly take holidays below this threshold. **QUICK LINKS**

Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

WE'RE HIRING

Teacher of Design & Technology

Teacher of Religion and Philosophy

Menstrual Health Day

In a Period Friendly World, the stigma and taboo surrounding menstruation are history. It is a world where everyone can access the products, education and infrastructure they need. From all over the world, we stand, we work, we fight together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld.

At BFS we are continuing the conversation to break the silence around periods. On Friday 23 May, students are invited to drop into DG01 during their lunch break to:

- Join the conversation to break the silence around periods
- Learn more about the importance of Menstrual Health Day for people who menstruate around the world
- Help themselves to some free period products.

Please do encourage your child to join us.

Donations Needed

The SEMH Department is in need of any fidget toys, games or puzzles. If you have any to spare, please take them to Mrs Gardiner in CG03. 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 <u>Clubs Booklet</u> for more information.

Free Period Products are available to those who need them. Just look for the **Pink Boxes** in the following locations:

• Student Services

PERIOD PRODUCTS

GOLD AWARD CELEBRATION

- Sixth Form Admin Office
- PE Changing Rooms
- Mrs Gardiner's Room
- Behaviour Office
- Main Reception

- SEND Office
- Mental Health & Safeguarding Room
- Head of Year Offices
- Behaviour Room

 Inter-curation
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ACHIEVEMENTS

FOOTBALL PROMOTION

Congratulations to Tom in Year 13, who achieved his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. Last week Tom was invited to Buckingham Palace for a Gold Award Celebration Event attended by Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh. Such a huge achievement - well done!



A group of Year 8 boys play for the Rockleaze Rangers Red Team (U13). The team have just won Division 4 with an unbeaten record and are now being promoted to Division 3 after an epic season. A massive achievement for all involved and well deserved for the boys.

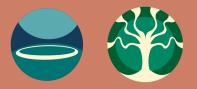
Congratulations to Max R, Louis A, Harry R, Gabriel P, Max C, Oli S, Eli S and Ljupche T.

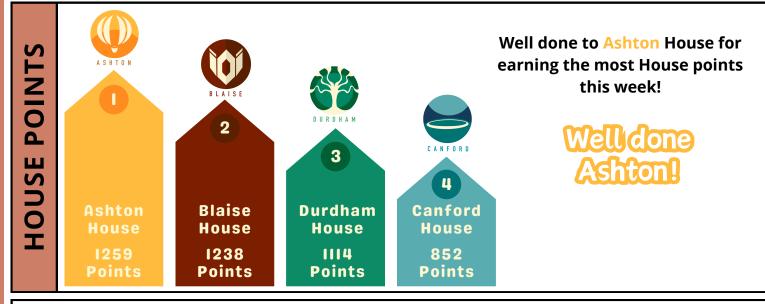






HOUSE NEWS





Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Millie C-J	Savannah A	Natalie R	Ayesha A
Year 8	Sam S	Naomi H	Cara S	James M
Year 9	Jaiya R	Tess P	Harry F	Lexi-May B
Year 10	Anastasia A, Hannah D, Melody V	Daisy H	Finlay A, Chloe D	Emma A, Lulah G
Year 12	Eleanor B	Thomas C, Archie H	Alfie C, Holly K	George F, Monty G, Isaac S, Callum T

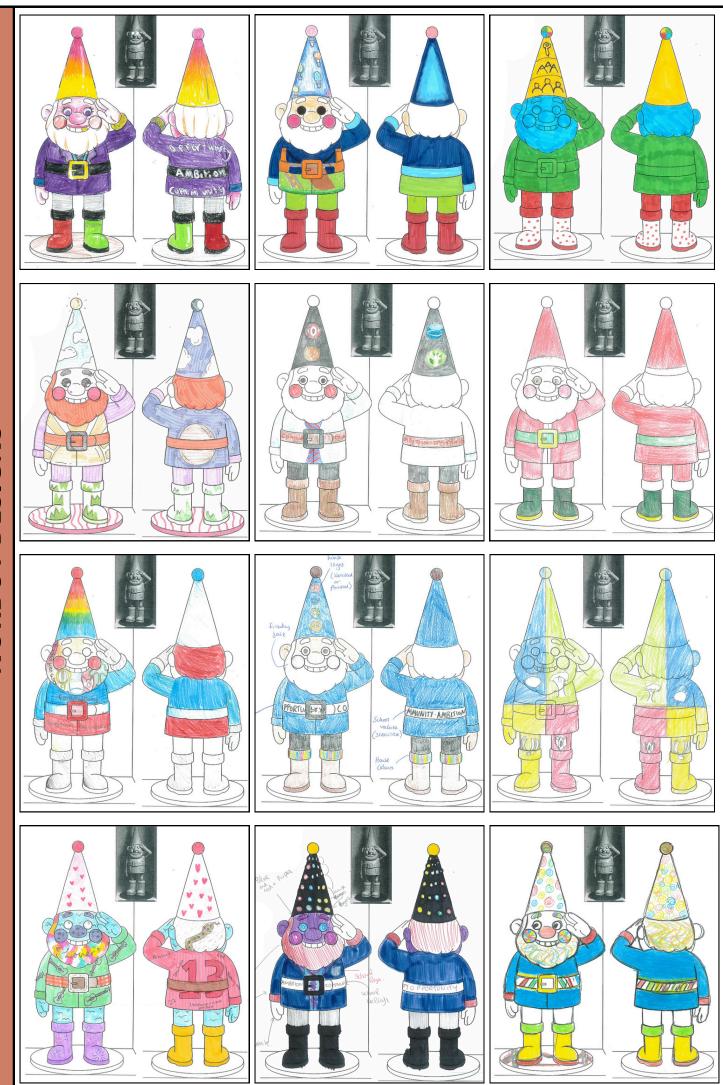
We have been so impressed with the entries into the Norbot Design competition and have received over 200 different Norbot designs. It is going to be really tough to decide how to decorate our BFS statue. Here is a small section of some truly inspirational designs.



Fantastic entries!







NORBOT DESIGNS



What has been happening in....





This term, Year 7 have been exploring how the poetic form of the ballad has developed over time. They started by conducting their own investigation into the form, before studying modern ballads such as Marvin Thompson's 'The Fruit is the Spirit of Love' and Vanessa Kisuule's 'Brick Me, Then'.



As well as practicing their analytical skills, students have also been writing their own poetry. They will be crafting and refining these over the next few weeks before we have the chance to celebrate a fantastic year at our annual Poetry Slam in June!



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Although we are only in May, Year 8 students are taking a break from poetry to focus on their end of year exams. Students have been demonstrating how much they have learned about detective fiction this year - analysing how writers create mystery and tension as well as crafting their own whodunnit stories.

MR GOWEN

We have been extremely impressed with the calmness and maturity Year 8 have brought to the exam period and are delighted with the progress they have made as a group this year.

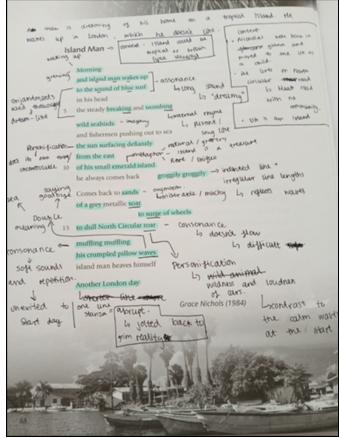
Year 9 students have been immersing themselves in poetry, diving into the verses that feature in their GCSE course. They have been studying poetry from the 'Belonging' anthology of the Edexcel course – a collection of poems that blends canonical poets such as Wordsworth and Bronte, with the contemporary poetry of Zephaniah and Antrobus, all based around the concept of identity and the places we belong to.

As part of their lessons, students have been annotating the poems they will be examined on in 2027 – keep these anthologies safe Year 9, your future selves will be very grateful for these valuable notes!

Students have also been participating in a competition with *Poetry By Heart*, a national competition that encourages young people to memorise and perform poetry. All students were tasked with selecting poems that resonate with them, digging into the layers of meaning, rhythm, and emotion embedded in each line. Learning these poems by heart has offered them a unique way to connect with the text, fostering a deep appreciation for the nuanced craft of poetry.

Sophie L and Polly T

"We like working with our anthologies and having the opportunities to have our ideas in one place. It's a good chance to see a variety of poets which has helped us craft some poems of our own. We especially love making annotations in our anthologies with a rainbow of different colours."



Will W-B

"Studying poetry has been great as it's a new thing and I've enjoyed learning about poems I've never come across before. It's really interesting how many ideas and devices you can find in each poem, as well as what you learn from others in the class when you share what you've found."

And because the weather was magnificent, some of our students decided to seek inspiration from the great outdoors whilst crafting poems, just like the Romantic poets of 250 years ago.

YEAR 10



Year 10 students have recently completed their English mock exams, which consisted of three separate papers. Following these assessments, they are now engaged in sessions with their teachers to enhance their exam techniques. During these sessions, students receive personalised feedback that helps them identify specific areas where they can improve. The English team have been guiding Year 10 into developing better strategies for tackling exam questions and suggesting key areas for focused revision. This process is designed to build their confidence and skills, preparing them for future mock exams and the real thing - all the way in 2026.

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In text 1 the writer presents choosing a career as a simple decision which wasn't whereas text 2 describes choosing a career as a complex challeng in text 1, the writer's career choice was 'written on the ways' and he went to a school 'designed to churn out medics. The writer shows that becom a doctor is easy because he comes from a privliged background. However,

The English Department has been impressed by the quality of response given at this stage of the course especially for the revision that has clearly taken place for An Inspector Calls and Boys Don't Cry. The transactional writing task of 'a career guide' or 'life ambitions article' has certainly provided some innovative and unique voices that showcase the charisma of this year group.

Noam G

"I know that I performed better in some papers than others and have got more confident in areas I wasn't sure in. I quite enjoyed writing the guide and showing creativity by being an expert careers advisor. My timing isn't quite right but I know I'm going to get there. The questions weren't always what I expected real exams are like that though so it's good practice. The feedback I've gotten has been helpful and I know will be really useful for when we look back on this in Year 11."



YEAR 11

Year 11 sat their first exam on Monday, they took it in their stride and rose up to the challenge for an 'out of the box' question - How are symbols used in Macbeth?

MR GOWEN

This year group have been a pleasure to teach and have really impressed the English Department with how well they have taken to revision this year. Best of luck for your next literature exam on Tuesday and your first language exam on Friday.

Your hard work will pay off!



Year 11 had their last Food Tech lesson cooking a breakfast and enjoyed recalling some of the key vocabulary in the process! Wishing the Year 11 Food Tech students well in their upcoming exams.



Here are some of the fantastic entries we have received for the RSPCA and Royal Society of Biology photography competitions. There is still time to enter - send your photos to Miss Hawes. All entries will received House points.





'Gigi, my chicken' by Naomi B in Y8





Bottom L-R, by Mia B-G in Y7:

- 1. Blue jeans frog
- 2. Motmot
- 3. Resplendent quetzal

Mia wrote:

In the 1960s, Costa Rica had one of the highest deforestation rates in the world, thanks to being a main producer of beef. Its vast array of wildlife disappeared, but within the next few decades, they turned this around and huge quantities of land became rewilded. It is now a main eco-tourism destination, and all of its many trees and animals have come back. An example of this is the resplendent quetzal, which is now thriving in the replanted avocado trees in the cloud forests, all of which used to be farm land!

BFS_TEAMPE

MS SLATER

AWARD

MRS BALLARD

We are pleased to announce that BFS has been awarded the Silver School Games Mark Award. The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme which celebrates schools'

commitment to developing competitive sport within their school and community.



Year 9 played Oasis Academy Brightstowe on Monday in their first rounders game of the season. After dusting off the cobwebs the students took the game by storm with some incredible batting in the second innings!

The *Little Chickens* were on fire and walked away with a 20-11.5 win!



Last week, a group of Year 7 - 10 students took part in the English Schools Athletics competition. The students were competing in their year groups for points, with all students taking part in two events. Well done all!

Overall Team Standings

Junior Boys (Y7/8) - 9th out of 11 schools Inter Boys (Y9/10) - 8th out of 13 schools Junior Girls (Y7/8) - 8th out of 10 schools Inter Girls (Y9/10) - 5th out of 11 schools

Individual Results

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Will B (Y10) came 3rd in 800m Archie P (Y10) came 1st in 300m Dan L (Y10) came 3rd in 200m Austin T (Y10) came 2nd in 100m Lilia B-L (Y10) came 1st in 1500m Esme R (Y10) came 3rd in 100m Abi B (Y9) came 2nd in 300m Imani P (Y9) came 2nd in 300m Imani P (Y9) came 3rd in High Jump Martha S (Y10) came 2nd in Shot Sophie D (Y10) came 2nd in Long Jump Iris B-L (Y8) came 1st in 1500m Inter boys relay team came 2nd (Will B, Ralph W, Archie P and Callum P) Inter girls relay team came 3rd (Imogen G, Rosie A, Lilia B-L, Laila H)

A massive well done to the whole squad. Our next Athletics competitions are on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th June. Athletics club is on a Monday after school.

On Tuesday we took these amazing athletes to the Minibus Athletics Event at Redland Green School. Amazing effort and performances all around. The Year 7 girls won the shot put and javelin. They placed 2nd in 1500m, long jump, standing triple jump and discus! Some of these events the students had not competed in before! The Year 7 boys won the 100m. They placed 2nd in 800m, long jump and relay. The Y7 girls came 2nd overall and the Y7 boys placed 4th. They organised themselves and ensured no one missed a race/field event. Well done all. We are so proud of you!

It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm and commitment of these students at Athletics Club and at competitions. We would love to see all year groups at athletics club after school on Mondays. Our next Athletics competition is on Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 June. Come along to training for an opportunity to represent BFS at fixtures.



/EAR 9

YEAR

As the weather becomes warmer please be mindful that students will be outside for all sports until the end of the year. We want to make sure that students are well equipped for their lessons.

Students should have the following:

- Water bottle, filled before the lesson
- Suncream (if they choose to)
- A baseball style cap (if they choose to)



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

<u>Monday</u>

Ms Urch

UBS

NOTICE

Athletics - track and field All year groups Mrs Wynne- Jones

Wednesday

Cricket All year groups Mrs Ballard Mr Howard

Table Tennis All year groups Mr MacBlain

<u>Thursday</u>

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

Dance Club Year 9 Ms Rostill

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Thursday 5 June Wednesday 11 June	Y7, Y8 & Y9 Rounders vs Cotham School Y7 & Y8 Boys Cricket vs Redland Green School	Shine Sports Ground Redland Green School
Wednesday 11 June	Y7 & Y8 Boys Cricket vs Redland Green School	Redland Green School
Wednesday 11 June	Y7 - 10 Rounders vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College
Thursday 12 June	Y7 & Y8 Rounders vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe	BFS
Tuesday 17 June	Y7 & Y8 Minibus Athletics	Kellaway Avenue
Tuesday 17 June	Project Rugby	Ashton Gate
Wednesday 18 June	Y7 & Y8 Boys Cricket vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College
Thursday 19 June	Y9 & Y10 Minibus Athletics	Kellaway Avenue
Tuesday 8 July	SPORTS DAY	Shine Sports Ground





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**





This week's employer talk was by Bilal Shafi from Logiq, a cyber security consultancy in Bristol. With so much in the news recently about cyber attacks on UK retailers like Coop and M&S, the talk was topical and there was a good attendance.

Bilal is a graduate at Logiq and his role is to keep computer systems safe from cyber threats. He got into cyber security after graduating from university with a cyber security degree, although he was keen to point out that you do not need a tech-related degree to get into the sector – one of his graduate colleagues studied psychology at university. He explained to students that cyber security is about protecting computers and information from hackers – a bit like being a digital bodyguard. As an example, he asked us if we had ever had to keep a password safe. That simple act is a form of cyber security. "Businesses are only as strong as the weakest link," he said. "And we humans are the weakest link." Hence the importance of everyone being security-conscious and cautious when receiving suspect communications like emails, whether or not we work in cyber security.

In terms of Bilal's actual job at Logiq, he told us that he helps defence organisations like the Ministry of Defence keep their information safe, looks for risks and helps fix security problems, working with different teams, like IT and security specialists. His main duties include checking for cyber threats, helping teams follow security rules, learning about new cyber risks, and travelling to different sites. He had some good tips on the skills you need in cyber security, which include problem-solving, teamwork, attention to detail, curiosity/learning new things, and communication. He advised students that they do not need to be a computer expert to start in cyber security, as there are courses and apprenticeships in cyber security, and that if you like solving puzzles and figuring things out, cyber security could be for you.



Bilal finished off by involving the students in an encryption activity using the Caesar Cipher Key. Many thanks to Bilal for taking the time to come in and speak to us in such a practical and engaging way.

COMING UP...

23 May: Pharmacy (NHS)

6 June: Police (UWE)

13 June: Optometry



CAN YOU HELP?

Are you able to offer Work Experience to one of our Year 12 students, Wednesday 9 - Friday 11 July? If you work locally and are able to offer a placement, please get in touch: <u>careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk</u>. Thank you!

CAREERS DAY – HELP NEEDED!

We're looking for speakers, in the following areas, to come and speak to students as part of our Year 10 careers day on Monday 7 July. If you, or anyone you know, work in architecture, interior design, TV, film or theatre, please get in touch with Mr Brunker by emailing careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk. We would really appreciate your support.

SdIH

PPRENTICES

Finance Work Experience

For female Y13 maths and computer science students. Jane Street is an international financial firm with offices in London. They host a programme for female students in their final year of school (Year 13) to gain experience in their office, meeting traders and learning learn how we use maths, computer science, and probability concepts in trading. Jane Street will cover all travel expenses, as well as housing and meals. No knowledge of finance is required, only an interest in seeing what a career at the company might look like. <u>Register here</u>, contact for questions is <u>work@janestreet.com</u>. Deadline is 15 June.

Potential Advertising Creatives

The Pitch 2025 Competition. "Your task is to conceptualise and build an advertising campaign for JD. This is a perfect way to showcase your creative and media talents, helping you forge a career by working with the biggest companies and brightest minds in the country." - deadline Thursday 5 June. The winners will get exclusive work experience with JD, plus a£150 JD voucher each as well as having their advert placed on a billboard in Manchester city centre.

If you are, or work for, a **small to medium size engineering company** in the West of England and want to take on an apprentice, this could be a great opportunity to meet pre-qualified candidates: the **West of England Institute of Technology (WEIOT)** will be running two events in June and July with the goal of providing prequalified applicants and SMEs the opportunity to meet and interview for live opportunities. They need employers for the event! <u>Find out</u> <u>more.</u>

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. <u>Find out more.</u>

Bristol Port Company Engineering Apprenticeships

Four-year apprenticeship in either Mechanical Engineering or Fabricating/Welding with one of the UK's most technologically advanced ports. Successful applicants will gain a variety of new skills and follow a sponsored programme leading to a City and Guilds qualification, which will include attendance at college. A minimum of five GCSEs at Grade C (5) or above are required, two of which should be in Maths and English. Start date August 2025. <u>Apply here.</u>

Bristol Port Company Port Operations Apprenticeships

Launch your career at one of the UK's most technologically advanced ports and be trained to operate a wide range of equipment from fork-lift trucks to £multi-million computercontrolled cranes. You will gain a variety of new skills, as well as an NVQ qualification in Port Operations. You will start on a basic salary of £18,476 per annum, which will rise to over £34,500 once you have successfully completed the two-year apprenticeship and one-year training programme. <u>Apply here.</u>

KPMG Audit Apprenticeship

Audit is about examining organisations and making sure their published records provide a true and fair view of their financial position. The work in audit helps build trust in the economy and supports sustainable business growth. Alongside developing audit expertise, you will study towards a valuable professional accounting qualification. Located in Bristol. Start date: September 2025. <u>Apply</u>.

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.

<u>Architecture School</u> 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 firstyear architecture students encounter.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

LOCAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Bristol Parent Carer Forum Shaping the Future logoffices

Does your child need extra help? You do not need a diagnosis to find support.





Bristol Parent Carers is a friendly group run by parents to help other parents.

We run free sessions to support families and also work with the council and health services to try to make support better for families.



Bristol City Council have a Local Offer website that provides key information about services and support for children and young people in Bristol.



Sirona have information on carious health needs such as mental healt, toileting, trauma, eating and many other needs.

SAFE SPACE YOUTH CLUB A fun, friendly place for young people!

SOUTHMEAD RUGBY CLUB WEDNESDAYS | 5-7PM £1 ENTRY · CASH ONLY ALL AGES WELCOME

(Under 8s must be accompanined by an adult)

What's on?

football & more





- Food and snacks available
- Meet new friends in a safe, welcoming environment

Contact Tracey for more info SRFC Safe Space Youth Club





Thursday 22nd May, 12 - 4 PM

Come and meet the organisations, charities, and groups who can support you with . . .

Cost of Living - Energy Prices - Food & Fuel bills - Housing - Connection Education - Learning - Finding Work - Health - Wellbeing - Activities

Bring the family, kids welcome

Free event, free cuppa!

at Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road, BS10 5PY tel: 0117 950 3335, email: info@southmead.org

