Digitech Newsletter - Term One



1 - **A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS BALLARD - PRINCIPAL**

As we come to the end of a fantastic first term at Digitech, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our students, staff and families for their continued support and commitment.

Term 1 has been an exciting and productive start to the academic year. Our students have approached their learning with enthusiasm, demonstrating creativity, resilience and ambition both in the classroom and throughout the school. It has been particularly pleasing to see our new Year 10 and Year 12 students engaging with our specialist digital and creative curriculum, developing the skills and knowledge that will help prepare them for future success.

Attendance and punctuality have remained a key focus, and I would like to thank families for supporting us in ensuring students are in school every day, on time and ready to learn. Strong attendance has a significant impact on achievement, wellbeing and future opportunities.

Some highlights of the term have included our Year 11 students successfully completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition, as well as a Post-16 trip to the university and apprenticeship fair at Ashton Gate Stadium.

As we look ahead to Term 2, we remain committed to providing an exceptional educational experience for every student. We will continue to focus on high expectations and ensuring all young people are supported to achieve their potential.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I hope you enjoy reading about the many successes and achievements highlighted throughout this newsletter.

Many Thanks,

Chris

Chris Ballard

Principal



TERM DATES 2026-2027

Term 2	
First day of term for students	Monday 2nd November 2026
Last day of term for students	Friday 18th December 2026
INSET Dates	Monday 23 November 2026

Term 3	
First day of term for students	Tuesday 5th January 2027
Last day of term for students	Thursday 11th February 2027
INSET Dates	Monday 4th January 2027Friday 12th February 2027
Term 4	
First day of term for students	Monday 22nd February 2027
Last day of term for students	Thursday 25th March 2027
Bank Holidays	Friday 26th March 2027

Term 5	
First day of term for students	Monday 12th April 2027
Last day of term for students	Friday 28th May 2027
Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May 2027
Term 6	
First day of term for students	Monday 7th June 2027
Last day of term for students	Friday 23rd July 2027
INSET Dates	Friday 2nd July 2027



3 - **WHAT WE HAVE BEEN LEARNING IN MATHS**

Year 10

Students are now in new groups, with standard form and indices on the menu before half term. When we come back students can look forward to their first taste of Surds which is on both higher and foundation schemes of work.

Year 11

We are in revision mode, with one mock completed and two calculator papers to go. All students should have the Paper 2 and Paper 3 revision list at home so they can revise over the holidays. Revision resources are also available via the revision folder linked on the student portal.

Gareth Williams

Senior Leader



4 - **ENGLISH HIGHLIGHTS**

Year 10

Students have explored the world of creative writing and the new poetry collection we study – Worlds and Lives. Through a range of workshops and skill-based lessons, we're looking forward to students crafting some vivid and engaging descriptions of wildlife as we end the term.

Year 11

Our revision of *An Inspector Calls* and creative writing techniques should have them primed for the two mock exams which conclude Term 1: English Language Paper 1 (Monday 19th October) and English Literature Paper 2 (Wednesday 21st October).

As ever, we encourage students to be reading widely and to seek support for revision and practice where needed!

Ashley Williams - Head of English

Samairah Hussein - Teacher of English

John Blackmore - Teacher of English



Year 10

Students have made an excellent start to their GCSE Science studies this term. They have been exploring the first Biology topic, *Key Concepts in Biology*, which includes cells, microscopes, enzymes and cell transport, alongside plenty of opportunities for practical investigations. They have now moved on to their first Physics topic, *Motion, Forces and Energy*. We have been really pleased with how well students have settled into their GCSE courses and the enthusiasm they have shown in lessons.

Year 11

Students have also made a strong start to the academic year. We have been impressed by their positive attitude to learning and the focus they have demonstrated in lessons. So far, they have been studying groups in the periodic table, rates of chemical reactions and ecosystems, providing a solid foundation as they continue their preparation for GCSE examinations.

Siobhan Cole

Senior Leader



Term 1 has greatly expanded on students excellent reports in Year 10 on Earning Money in the Music Industry to Marketing & Promotion. This has introduced students to the variety of methods artists, bands and groups are marketed to the public. Exploring the history and expanse of Music Marketing has brought about topics of audience and analysis of visualisers, music videos, electronic press kits, documentaries and live performance.

In Term 2, students will begin to produce their own marketing materials for a chosen artist.

Luke Fazackerley

Teacher of Digital Media

Year 10

Year 10 Creative Digital Media students have made a fantastic start to their first unit, exploring the key concepts, tools and processes involved in creating and publishing digital content across a range of platforms and destinations. Students have been developing their understanding of different media sectors, media products, audiences and purposes, while beginning to build their practical creative skills. They have been putting their learning into practice through Canva workshops, producing their own business card designs for a range of fictional companies such as Fake Shake and Wheelie Fast, before progressing onto Adobe Photoshop workshops where they will learn to create and manipulate composite imagery. These skills will build towards a larger creative project in which students will develop their own advertising campaign for a selection of UK food, drink and snack brands, producing a cohesive series of digital advertisements.

Year 11

Year 11 Creative Digital Media students have begun the year exploring the creative and technical principles of film production, investigating how filmmakers use different techniques to communicate meaning, establish atmosphere and engage audiences. Students have been exploring key concepts including colour theory, film conventions and the creative use of sound,

including diegetic and non-diegetic audio. Through watching and analysing a range of film examples, students will investigate how colour, sound, cinematography and other creative choices work together to shape the audience's experience. They will then apply this understanding to the planning and production of their own original film product, giving them the opportunity to put both their creative ideas and developing production skills into practice.

Year 12

Year 12 Creative Digital Media students have made a fantastic start to the year, beginning their first unit by exploring graphic design and developing their own brand portfolios. Students have been introduced to semiotic theory and have analysed a range of graphic design examples to explore how designers use colour, typography, imagery and visual signs to communicate meaning to an audience. They have now begun the creative stage of the unit, developing their own brand concepts aimed at a Gen Z audience, which will be applied across a range of apparel and products such as clothing and phone cases. Alongside this, students have been developing their practical skills through a range of Adobe Photoshop workshops, experimenting with drawing tablets, gradient maps, brush tools, filters and effects, with lots more creative techniques still to come! Year 12 will also soon be visiting Ashton Gate for a Careers, Apprenticeships and University Fair, where they will explore future pathways, meet universities, employers and apprenticeship providers, and take part in a series of workshops.

Year 13

Year 13 Creative Digital Media students have been busy planning, designing and producing their own professional portfolio websites, showcasing some of their best creative work from across the course. These portfolios will provide students with a valuable platform to showcase their skills and experience when progressing onto university, apprenticeships and future employment within the creative industries. Students have been exploring website design and interactive features, creating their own buttons and visual assets, preparing and optimising images for use online, and using site maps to carefully plan the structure and navigation of their websites before moving into production. It has been exciting to see students developing their own individual visual styles and considering how they can present themselves and their work professionally to future universities and employers. Year 13 will also be joining Year 12 on the upcoming visit to Ashton Gate for a Careers, Apprenticeships and University Fair, taking part in workshops and exploring the range of progression opportunities available to them after Post-16.

Lily Knibbs

Teacher of Creative Digital Media

8 - **ICT**

Students have returned after summer in great spirts and tackling both Digital Video Production and Spreadsheets. Reports on the production of Digital Video have showcased great knowledge not just in creative intent but the technical requirements of editing digital video including frames per second, aspect ratios, digital container formats and resolution. This leading up to students producing their own digital videos whilst ensuring they are meeting the technical requirements are in pace and correct.

Term 2 brings about teaching for the Externally Assessed Exam: The Online World with the opportunity to engage with lessons on Online Services & Communication, Online Communities & Commerce and Security & Threats.

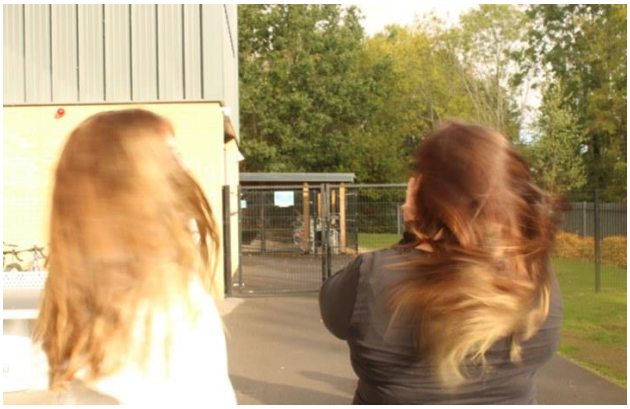
Luke Fazackerley

Teacher of Digital Media

9 - **ART, PHOTOGRAPHY AND GRAPHICS THIS TERM**

Here are some photographs of Year 10 Photography students, who are learning how to use fast and slow shutter speed.





Year 10

Students have begun their Art/Photography/Graphics GCSE course learning new skills and understanding the creative process.

The Year 10 Art class produced excellent homework this week. They chose an artist they wanted to study in more detail and created high quality research pages.

Year 11

Year 11 are currently in the middle of their coursework, having almost completed their research they will move on to developing their own ideas in term 2.

Year 12

Students have begun their Cambridge Technicals Level 3 Diploma in Art and Design course and currently are working on a Fine Art unit.

Year 13

Second year students are responding to client briefs to create a series of prints.

Students have had a fantastic start to a new course at Digitech. Students have been tackling the application of Camera Angles, Camera Movements and the effect of Cuts and Transitions. This has provided a sound platform to introduce practical workshops revealing key techniques for recording Foley sounds, editing techniques in Adobe Premiere Pro and practical lighting setups. It has been an extremely productive and insightful term.

In Term 2, we will be looking at practical applications of cinematography leading into student led projects. It is really exciting to see so many passionate and committed Filmmaking students on board.

Luke Fazackerley

Teacher of Digital Media



11 - **ESPORTS UPDATE**

Year 10

Term 1 has introduced a cohort of eager and motivated Esports students to the Esports Industry. Students have been researching into a range of video game genres used in Esports competitions establishing their features and application in competitive arenas. This alongside our weekly 'Game-off' has already established a competitive and supportive native within the cohort. Term 2 will shed light on successful Esports teams and how they operate. Hats off to Benjy for holding the class PolyTrack record and Casey for the class Speed Waves high score.

Year 11

Year 11 has started really positively with a number of students progressing onto organising an Esports event coupled with planning an Esports Live Stream allowing students to choose their passion and pursue streaming conventions they are enthusiastic about. It has been particularly encouraging to see students taking greater responsibility for their learning, showing initiative and developing their own ideas with increasing independence. Students have also been refining their Esports Brand Designs from Year 10 taking on feedback to optimise logos, esports merchandise and planning to launch the brand.

Luke Fazackerley

Teacher of Digital Media



12 - **GAMES DESIGN**

Year 12

Year 12 Games Design students have been developing their understanding of the fundamentals of game design, exploring key functions and mechanics and how these shape the player experience. They have also been investigating games across different platforms, with a particular focus on mobile game development and how mobile technology can influence gameplay. Students are now beginning to apply this knowledge by developing ideas for their own games and starting to plan their Game Design Documents (GDDs).

We are also excited to be developing a new partnership with the Bristol Digital Game Lab at the University of Bristol. The Game Lab brings together academia, the games industry and the public sector, exploring the potential of games for education, culture and wider society, alongside areas such as game design, research and game jams. This partnership will give our Games Design students opportunities to see how their learning connects with university study, research and the wider games industry. We are looking forward to an upcoming visit to the Game Lab's facilities in Term 2, where students will be able to experience this environment first-hand and gain further insight into opportunities within games design and development.

Post 16

Post 16 students have an exciting and positive term ahead, with a range of opportunities planned to support their progression, enrichment and achievement. A trip has been organised to the University and Apprenticeship Fair at Ashton Gate on 15 October, giving students the chance to explore future pathways and speak to universities, employers and apprenticeship providers. Students will also be visiting Watershed on Tuesday 10 November for a special cinema screening, supporting their wider curriculum and cultural experiences.

We have also been celebrating student success through our Star of the Week awards, recognising students for their hard work, progress and positive contributions. At the end of term, we will hold our first Post 16 Recognition Assembly, providing another opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students.

Karl Gill

Associate Assistant Principal - Post 16

Year 10 and Year 12

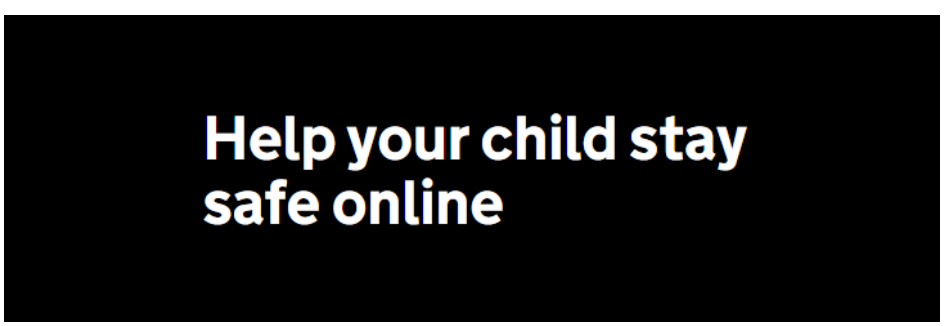
Students have been concentrating on their Music Production work this term.

Year 11

Students have continued working on their Music production project work.

Year 13

Students have been learning more about careers in Music.



Get step-by-step guidance and instant help setting up parental controls for your family's devices. *Click on the link below.*

Parental Control Guides



A guide for children with additional needs to help develop critical thinking skills, and stay safer online.

https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/additional-needs-support/thinking-critically-online/



Mental health and wellbeing support / General cost of living advice

Feeling worried about money or bills? Don't be afraid to ask for help if you are struggling, you may be entitled to extra support.

Many people are feeling stressed and overwhelmed right now. Remember to be kind to yourself and take time to look after your wellbeing.

If money worries are affecting your mental health, **free support and advice is available at**: www.oneyou.southglos.gov.uk

Make sure you are claiming all the benefits you are entitled to, as millions of pounds of benefits go unclaimed every year.

You can check on the government online benefit calculator here: https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators

To find out what local financial help is available: www.southglos.gov.uk/costofliving

You can also visit a One Stop Shop in Kingswood, Patchway or Yate or call the council's **freephone helpline: 0800 953 7778.**

STUDENT SUPPORT AVAILABLE - MONDAY AND THURSDAY BREAKTIMES, IN THE HUB INTERVENTION ROOM.

We know that for some students, there is someone in their family or a friend who is ill, disabled, or has a mental health problem or an addiction.

We think in every class there could be as many as two students who are helping to support someone because of one of these factors – we call these students Young Carers.

Students can be young carers for lots of different reasons:

They might be providing support to a parent/carer with a physical illness such as fibromyalgia or ME, they could be cooking, fetching shopping/collecting medication, helping with siblings.

They might be helping a parent/carer with a disability who needs help with more personal tasks such as getting dressed, bathing or changing dressings.

Or it could be more emotional support – like supporting their sibling with additional needs, taking responsibility for young siblings whilst parents/carers attend health appointments, or checking that a parent/carer with depression/anxiety is ok.

Some young carers might be doing lots of caring, others just a small amount but are impacted by the situation at home, for example by worrying about the person with the health condition or needing to do more things for themselves compared to other students.

We are committed to ensuring that all students get the support they need to have a positive school experience, are happy in school and can achieve their full potential.

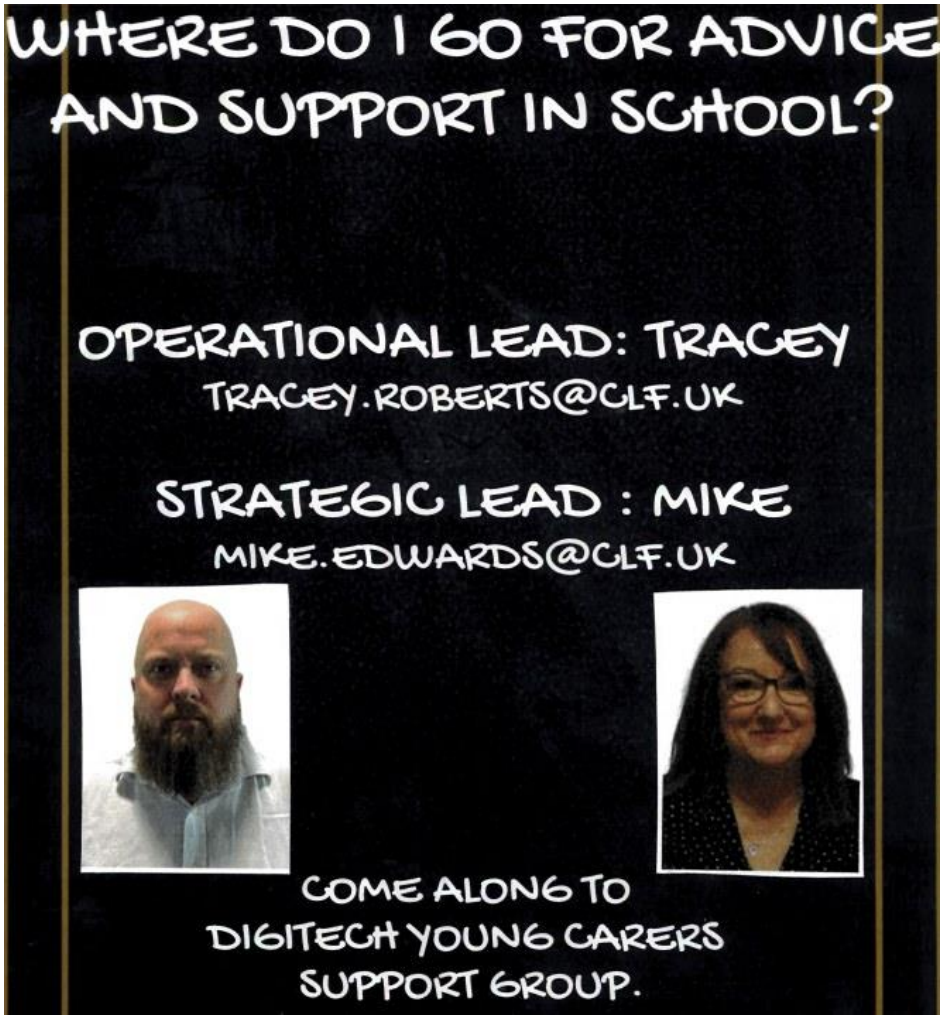
If you think that any of the above applies to your child, and that they might possibly be a young carer, please contact:

Mike Edwards – Young Carers SLT Champion

Tracey Roberts – Young Carers Operational Lead.

Mike.Edwards@clf.uk

Tracey.Roberts@clf.uk


WHERE DO I GO FOR ADVICE AND SUPPORT IN SCHOOL?
OPERATIONAL LEAD: TRACEY
TRACEY.ROBERTS@CLF.UK
STRATEGIC LEAD : MIKE
MIKE.EDWARDS@CLF.UK
COME ALONG TO DIGITECH YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT GROUP.

Come and see your School Nurse

Get confidential advice and support about:

Emotional wellbeing

Healthy eating

Relationships



Drugs, alcohol and smoking

Dental health

Sleep

Physical health

Sexual health

When: Wednesday Lunchtimes

Where- The Hub Quiet Space



School Nursing Service parent drop-in

If you are a parent or carer and would like to speak to a member of the School Nursing Team to get information and advice for your child, then please come along to one of our parent drop-ins.

This will also be an opportunity for you to meet with other parents and ask the School Nursing Team any questions you may have.

This will also be an opportunity for you to meet with other parents and ask the School Nursing Team any questions you may have.

When: Every Friday including school holidays.10:30am -12pm

Where: Martins House, opposite Kings Oak Academy.

You can contact: School Nursing team 0300 125 5151.

Use the QR code to view our web page and find out more about our service.

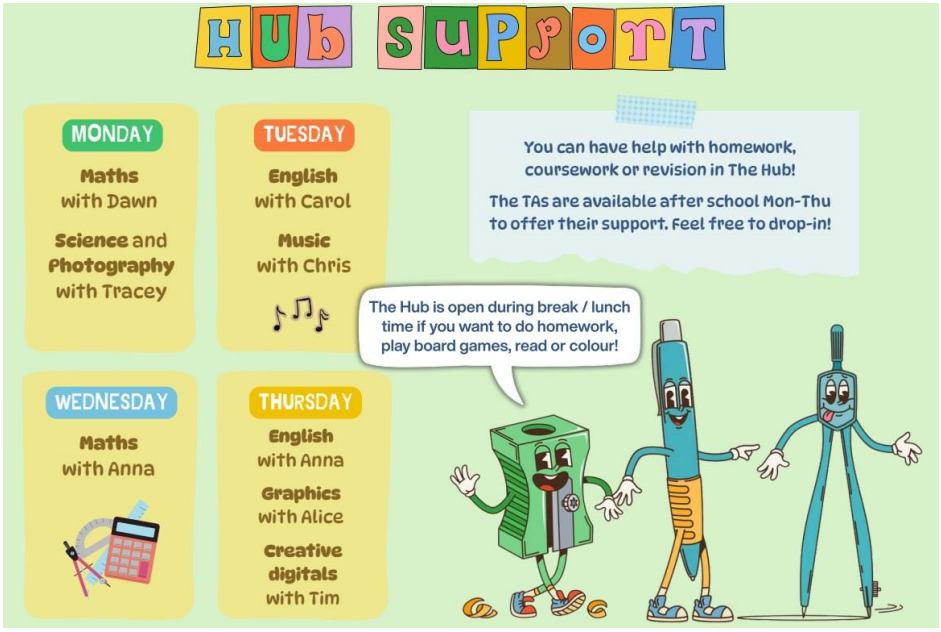
Service provided by Sirona care & health

You can also text our anonymous chathealth service: 07312263093 Mon-Fri, 9am - 5pm.

For more information visit: Sirona-cic.org.uk/children-services/services/chathealth/

---

17 - **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS INFORMATION**





SEND AND YOU
SENDIAS
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Are you a young person under 25? Do you have a disability or need extra help with learning? Do you live in Bristol, North Somerset or South Gloucestershire?

If yes, we can help you to:

Understand your rights in education or training

Get the help you need

Make sure you are listened to

www.sendandyou.org.uk

0117 992 6009

SAY SEND AND YOU SENDIAS

We provide Information, Advice and Support around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Our service covers Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

Contact Us

Our advice service is open Monday to Friday from 9:30-16:30 year round. To get in contact with us you can:

- Scan the QR code below to access our Contact Form
- Enter your details into the form
- An advisor will call you within 3-5 working days
- If you are not available, the advisor will send you a link to book a telephone appointment

Unable to access the form?
Please email:
support@sendandyou.org.uk
Or call us:

Phone number - 0117 992 6009

[redacted]

New online safety advice for parents of children with additional needs

---



Children with additional needs may experience the online world differently to their peers.

Some children may spend more time online, be more trusting, compliant or anxious, or feel less in control of their online experiences.

As parents and carers, it can be difficult to know how best to support your child, especially when much of the online safety advice available takes a “one size fits all” approach.

That’s why we wanted to share **Every Child Safe Online,** a new advice hub from online safety experts Internet Matters which offers accessible, practical resources and guidance for parents and carers of children with additional needs.

The resources are designed to help you support your child to have safer, more positive online experiences, with guidance that recognises that every child is different.

You can access the resources here.



Work Experience

Year 10 work experience has been launched this term

This year we are offering 2 opportunities for students to go on placement.

Our compulsory work experience week is July 5th-9th 2026, where the expectation is that all students will be out on placement. This can take place anywhere that the student is able to secure something.

The responsibility is on the student and parent / carer to find a placement.

The second opportunity we are offering, is for students to be able to go out anytime during year 10, avoiding their mock exams, if possible, mock exams take place 11th – 15th January and the end of June. The requirement for this placement is that it must be within the industries that we emphasise here at Digitech (creative / Media / Digital / Technology / IT/ Business). Our hope is that those students that are keen will now have the flexibility to find a placement that is purposeful and will add value to their career learning journey.

Work experience offers a great opportunity for students to experience the world of work; it is a key part of our careers programme here at Digitech. It is our expectation that all students will take part in some way. If finding a whole week is a challenge, please consider a couple of days.

Once placements have been found this needs to be reported to Jane Morgan (jane.morgan@clf.uk) or Martine Thomas (martine.thomas@clf.uk) by **Friday 28th May 27** so that all the necessary health and safety paperwork can be completed by **Friday 25th June 2027**. For the flexible placement this needs to be reported with enough time to get the paperwork completed before the placement is due to start. **Students will not be permitted to go out on work experience if the paperwork is not completed.**

After half term there will be a drop-in session every Monday lunchtime in the canteen for students to come with any work experience related questions or to report placements. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Jane Morgan or Martine Thomas.

Jane Morgan Careers and Pathways Lead

Welcome Back Support

We're really looking forward to seeing everyone back after half term. After a break, getting back into routine isn't always easy. Mornings are darker, bedtimes may have slipped, and coughs and colds are going round. Thank you for everything you do to get your child into school each day. It makes a real difference.

A few small things can make the first week smoother:

- **Reset bedtimes:** bring them forward a little over the last couple of days of the break.
- **Prepare the night before:** lay out clothes for the day and pack bags.
- **Give yourself time:** allow a few extra minutes on the first morning so it feels calm, not rushed.
- **Mild illness:** a cold, sore throat or cough usually isn't a reason to stay home. If you're unsure, check the NHS "Is my child too ill for school?" guide, and we'll keep an eye on them.

If anything is making mornings difficult, please get in touch with the school. We're here to help, and we'd much rather support you early.

The second half of the autumn term is a busy and important one. There are new topics in every subject, mock exams and key exam preparation for year 11, and resit Maths and English exams for post 16. Every day in school is a day of learning, time with friends and growing confidence, and even a few days off soon add up to a lot of missed lessons. Thank you for working with us. See you soon!

Gareth Williams
Senior Leader

SPARX HOMEWORK

Sparx Reminder

A reminder that your child should be using Sparx Science to complete their weekly Science homework. Sparx provides highly personalised homework to students, tailored to their individual attainment level and working speed. Your child's homework is set on Thursday 9am, and due in on Wednesday 6pm every week. Students log in at sparxscience.com by finding their school, clicking continue with Microsoft and entering their school username and password. Sparx Science can be accessed on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser. We understand how important your child's success is to you. Below, you'll find information about Sparx Science, along with practical advice on how you can support them to complete their homework each week.

What is Sparx Science?

Assigned homework will mostly focus on topics recently covered in class, along with consolidation questions on previously covered topics to embed prior learning. Students receive immediate feedback for each question about whether their answer was correct or they need to

have another try. They earn rewards via XP for completion and effort. Every Sparx Science question has support available, helping your child find the guidance they need on their own. This ensures they always have the tools to succeed. Students also have the autonomy to further develop their scientific knowledge if they desire, via the 'Independent Learning' section of the platform. Homework will only be marked complete when 100% of the questions are answered correctly.

How can you help your child with their homework?

Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework, with minimal distractions. Encourage your child to start their homework early. Please let them attempt questions independently. Sparx Science will automatically adjust the level of questions provided based on your child's answers. Keep track of your child's progress within their homework by checking the weekly email sent to you from Sparx.

Find out more about Sparx Science here: *sparxscience.com*

Support is available - Please see details of homework clubs below.

Your child's teacher will also be available to answer any questions/support with specific issues.

If you have any questions, please contact: *siobhan.cole@clf.uk*

Siobhan Cole Senior Leader

[redacted]

Welcome back - Support

We're really looking forward to seeing everyone back after half term. After a break, getting back into routine isn't always easy. Mornings are darker, bedtimes may have slipped, and coughs and colds are going round. Thank you for everything you do to get your child into school each day. It makes a real difference.

A few small things can make the first week smoother:

- ***Reset bedtimes:*** *bring them forward a little over the last couple of days of the break.*
- ***Prepare the night before:*** *lay out clothes for the day and pack bags.*
- ***Give yourself time:*** *allow a few extra minutes on the first morning so it feels calm, not rushed.*
- ***Mild illness:*** *a cold, sore throat or cough usually isn't a reason to stay home. If you're unsure, check the NHS "Is my child too ill for school?" guide, and we'll keep an eye on them.*

If anything is making mornings difficult, please get in touch with the school. We're here to help, and we'd much rather support you early.

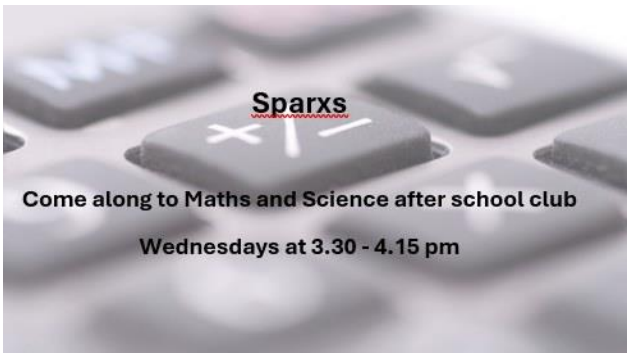
The second half of the autumn term is a busy and important one. There are new topics in every subject, mock exams and key exam preparation for year 11, and resit Maths and English exams for post 16. Every day in school is a day of learning, time with friends and growing confidence, and even a few days off soon add up to a lot of missed lessons. Thank you for working with us. See you soon!

Gareth Williams

Senior Leader

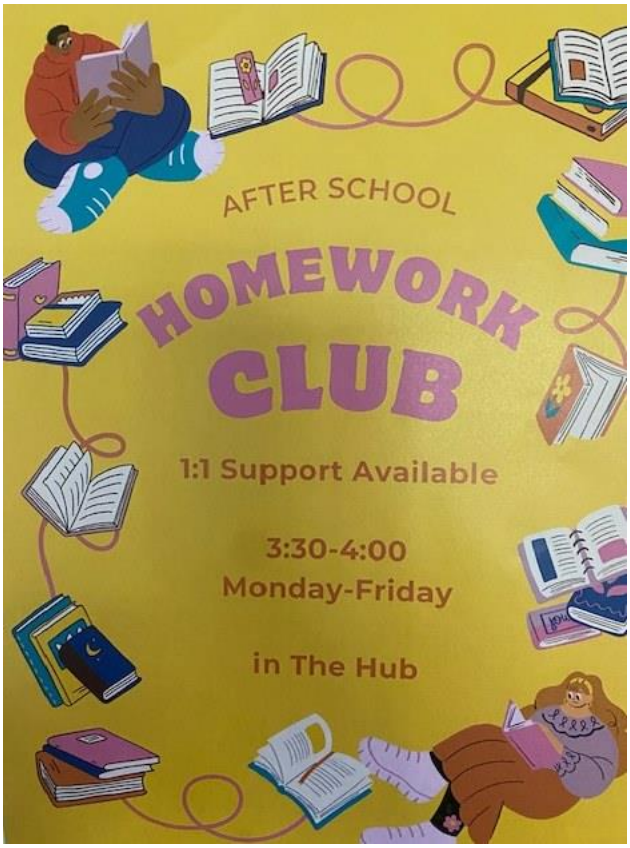
[redacted]

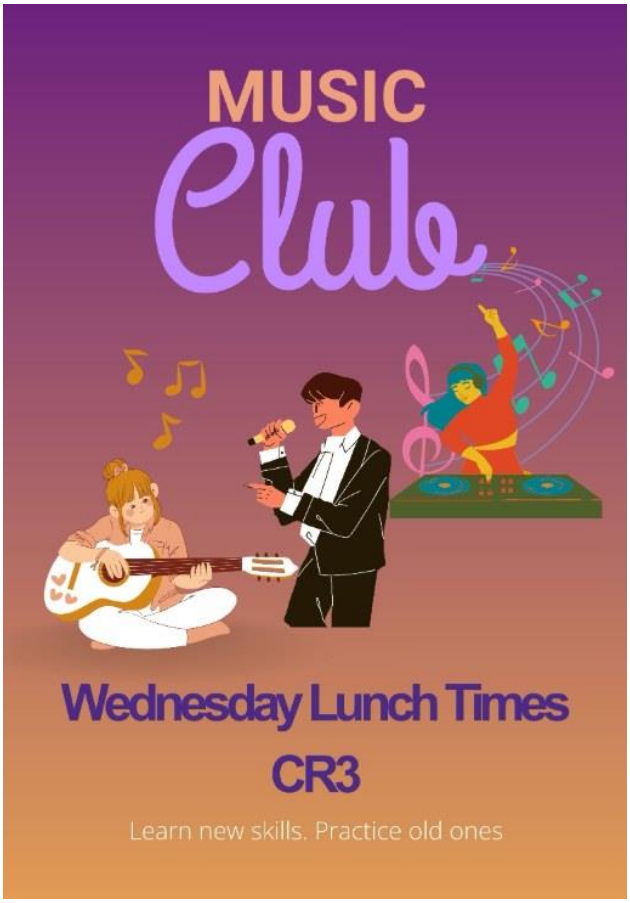

English
Come along to English after school club
Tuesdays at 3.30 - 4.30pm

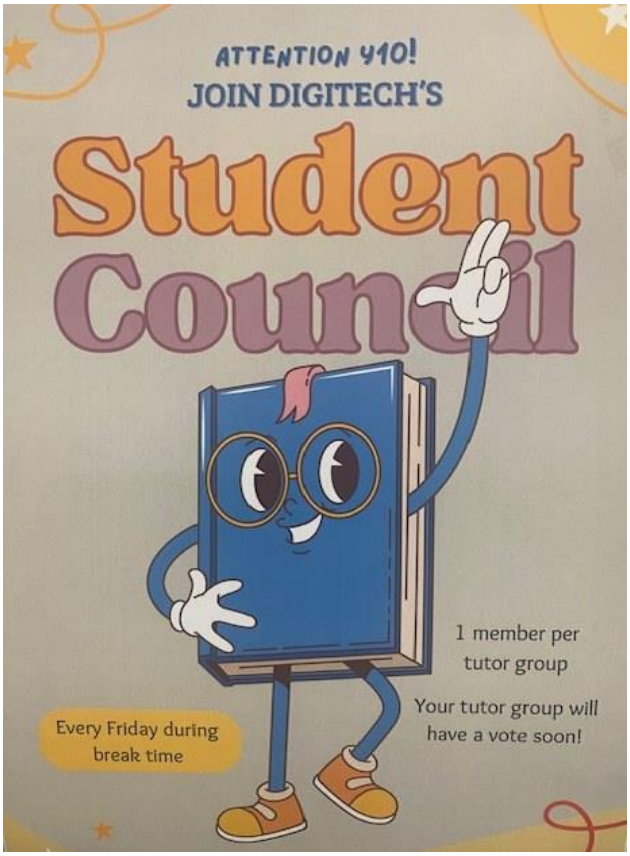

Sparxs
Come along to Maths and Science after school club
Wednesdays at 3.30 - 4.15 pm


Careers and Work Experience drop-in sessions on Monday lunchtimes, 12.50 - 1.20 with Jane Morgan Careers and Pathways Lead.


Duke of Edinburgh Club
Come along on
Wednesdays at lunch,
Learn about the DofE
award, get involved
and have fun!


AFTER SCHOOL
HOMEWORK
CLUB
1:1 Support Available
3:30-4:00
Monday-Friday
in The Hub


MUSIC
Club
Wednesday Lunch Times
CR3
Learn new skills. Practice old ones



Parents Evenings

December 3rd - Year 11

January 7th - Post 16

February 4th - Year10

March 25th - Year11

April 15th - Post 16

July 22nd - Year 10

Post 16 Open Evening

Tuesday 3rd November 4 - 5.30pm



Please come along to our coffee mornings, you will receive an invitation in advance confirming the time.







After being cancelled last term due to the hot weather, our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh over night expedition was rescheduled and successfully took place on Wednesday 8th and 9th of October in the Mendips.

The hike started at Velvet bottom in the Mendips, students hiked down the top ridge of Cheddar Gorge, before hiking back towards Draycott and the campsite.

All students cooked their own dinner, from curries to pasta and noodles.

Tents remained standing through a very windy night, and students completed a rainy second day hiking along the top of the Mendips, with amazing views overlooking the Somerset Levels.

Congratulations to all ten wet and exhausted students, who completed and passed, they have shown fantastic resilience, teamwork and navigation skills.



Live Lunch

In Term one our Live Lunch was planned, promoted and set up by two Year 11 students as part of their Music Industry Project.

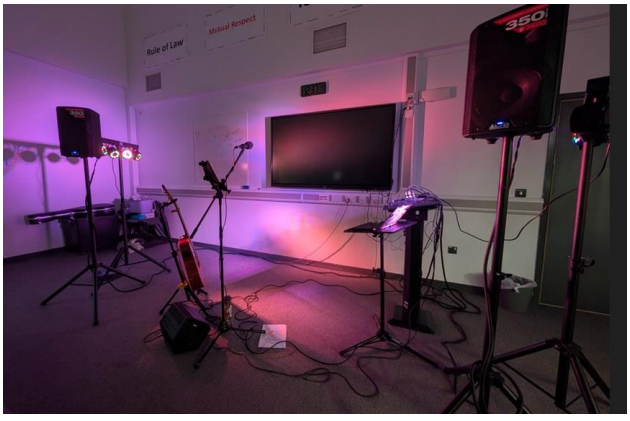
These students also led in arranging some live music during our recent Open Evening.

Our very own Music Teacher Sam Eason led our October Live Lunch, playing songs from his upcoming album-

'With Feeling, Once More'

for the very first time!


Digitech
LIVE
LUNCH
SAM EASON
TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER
LUNCHTIME
(12:50-1:20)
LECTURE HALL
PLAYING SONGS
FROM HIS UPCOMING
ALBUM LIVE FOR THE
FIRST TIME


Rule of Law
Mutual Respect
350



[redacted]

In other news, we've started our second year of recording our school podcast **'The Upload',** *with our first already up on Spotify, groups of students are booked over the coming weeks to record our up and coming episodes.*

Students talk about life at Digitech, alongside features on gaming, top films, favourite TV, and much more.

Created by students, for students, it's packed with fun and interesting content.

🎧 *Tune in on Spotify with* - **Upload Digitech**

---

20 - **NEW SCHOOL CATERING UPDATE**

New Catering Update

At the start of term one, Digitech welcomed our new school catering company, Innovate.

Our kitchen has been serving a brand-new menu, from hearty classics to fresh new favourites, with great flavours, keeping pupils fuelled for learning.

Students can choose from 5 daily meal deals, with the option of a roast lunch each week.



Week Commencing;
07/09/26, 28/09/26, 19/10/26, 9/11/26, 30/11/26, 21/12/26, 11/01/27, 01/02/27, 22/02/27, 15/03/27, 05/04/27

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS	VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS
MONDAY Beef Chilli Con Carne with Nacho Crumb, Mixed Rice & Sweetcorn	**MONDAY** Mixed Bean Chilli with Nacho Crumb, Mixed Rice & Sweetcorn (VE)
TUESDAY Sticky Bang Bang Chicken with Rice & Garlic Green Beans	**TUESDAY** Sticky Plant Based Bang Bang Pieces with Rice & Garlic Green Beans (VE)
WEDNESDAY Glazed Gammon or Lemon & Thyme Roast Chicken, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy	**WEDNESDAY** Vegetable 'Squashage' Roll with Crispy Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy (V)
THURSDAY Creamy Chicken, Spinach & Pesto Pasta Bake with House Salad	**THURSDAY** Arrabiata 'Veggieball' Bake with House Salad (V)
FRIDAY Chip Shop "Fryday" Fish, Salmon Fishcake or Pizza with Chips, Peas & Tartare Sauce	**FRIDAY** Smashed Veggie Burger with Iceberg Lettuce & Perinaise Sauce(VE)

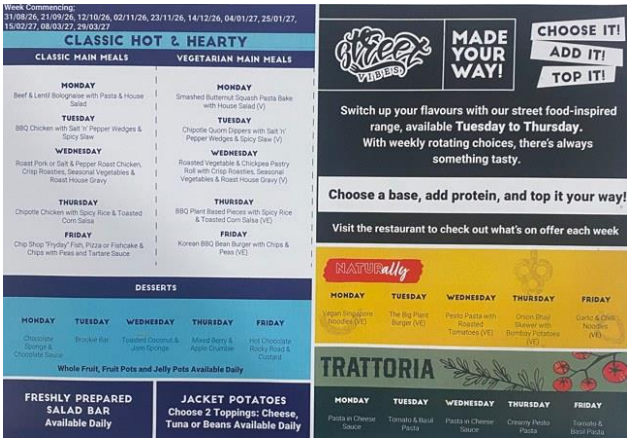
DESSERTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Vanilla Sponge & Custard	Chocolate & Orange Brownie	Biscoff Swirl Sponge	Oaty Apple Crumble	Fruity Fridge Cake

Whole Fruit, Fruit Pots and Jelly Pots Available Daily

FRESHLY PREPARED SALAD BAR
Available Daily

JACKET POTATOES
Choose 2 Toppings: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily


Week Commencing:
31/08/26, 21/09/26, 12/10/26, 02/11/26, 23/11/26, 14/12/26, 04/01/27, 25/01/27, 15/02/27, 08/03/27, 29/03/27
CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY
CLASSIC MAIN MEALS
VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS
MONDAY
Beef & Lentil Bolognese with Pasta & House Salad
MONDAY
Smashed Butternut Squash Pasta Bake with House Salad (V)
TUESDAY
BBQ Chicken with Salt 'n' Pepper Wedges & Spicy Slaw
TUESDAY
Chipotle Quorn Dippers with Salt 'n' Pepper Wedges & Spicy Slaw (V)
WEDNESDAY
Roast Pork or Salt & Pepper Roast Chicken, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy
WEDNESDAY
Roasted Vegetable & Chickpea Pastry Roll with Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy (V)
THURSDAY
Chipotle Chicken with Spicy Rice & Toasted Corn Salsa
THURSDAY
BBQ Plant Based Pieces with Spicy Rice & Toasted Corn Salsa (VE)
FRIDAY
Chip Shop 'Friyday' Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas and Tartare Sauce
FRIDAY
Korean BBQ Bean Burger with Chips & Peas (VE)
DESSERTS
MONDAY
Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate Sauce
TUESDAY
Brookie Bar
WEDNESDAY
Toasted Coconut & Jam Sponge
THURSDAY
Mixed Berry & Apple Crumble
FRIDAY
Hot Chocolate Rocky Road & Custard
Whole Fruit, Fruit Pots and Jelly Pots Available Daily
FRESHLY PREPARED SALAD BAR
Available Daily
JACKET POTATOES
Choose 2 Toppings: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily
Street Vibes
MADE YOUR WAY!
CHOOSE IT!
ADD IT!
TOP IT!
Switch up your flavours with our street food-inspired range, available Tuesday to Thursday.
With weekly rotating choices, there's always something tasty.
Choose a base, add protein, and top it your way!
Visit the restaurant to check out what's on offer each week
NATURally
MONDAY
Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)
TUESDAY
The Big Plant Burger (VE)
WEDNESDAY
Pesto Pasta with Roasted Tomatoes (VE)
THURSDAY
Onion Bhaji Skewer with Bombay Potatoes (VE)
FRIDAY
Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)
TRATTORIA
MONDAY
Pasta in Cheese Sauce
TUESDAY
Tomato & Basil Pasta
WEDNESDAY
Pasta in Cheese Sauce
THURSDAY
Creamy Pesto Pasta
FRIDAY
Tomato & Basil Pasta









Catering Reminder

Please remember that our Canteen operates a card only payment system and cannot accept cash.

Please ensure your child has the correct payment method in place for when we start back in Term 2.

Hospitality cannot be provided unless it is an emergency and payments will need to be made the following day.

---

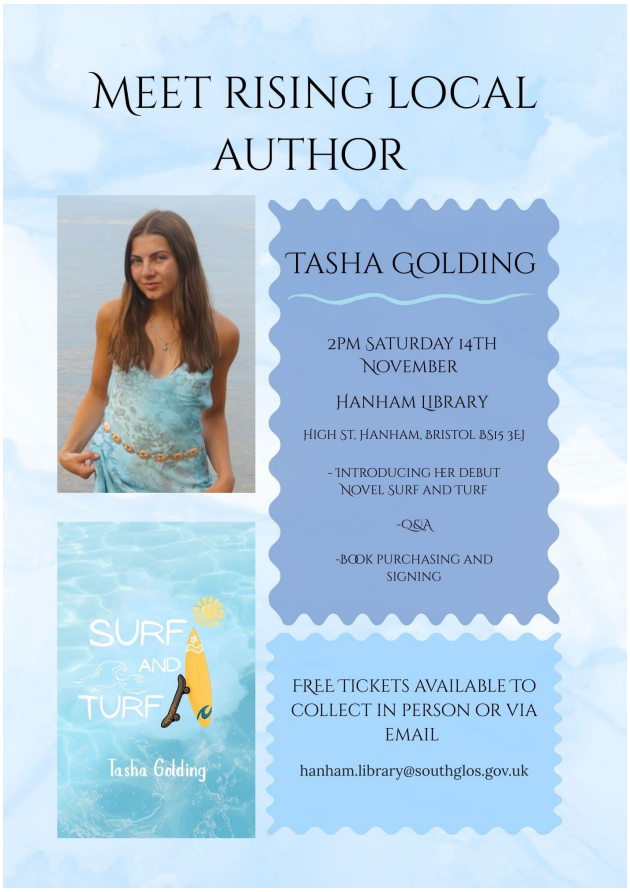
21 - ***FROM DIGITECH STUDENT- TO PUBLISHED AUTHOR***

We are thrilled to celebrate former Digitech Student Tasha Golding, who has just released her debut young adult novel, **Surf and Turf.**

Come along to Hanham Library on Saturday 14th November at 2pm, for what is sure to be an inspiring Q&A session, and have your book signed.

Books will be available to purchase on the day.

Huge congratulations from Digitech!



22 - **HIRE OUR SCHOOL HALL**

Click here to find out more - https://digitechstudio.schoolhire.co.uk/main-hall/39453

Looking for a venue to host a meeting, community groups (Scouts, Guides) or talks –

Look no further than Digitech!



Main Hall

Digitech Studio School in Bristol

Pricing

Details	Size	Weekday (£)	Weekend (£)
Full Hall	8 x 9	25.00	30.00
Weekend Full Day	8 x 9	n/a	200.00 (fixed fee)

Prices shown are per hour unless otherwise stated and may be subject to VAT.

What you will find at this facility

Maximum capacity - 50 people.

Our Main Hall provides a flexible facility to meet your requirements whatever your needs.

Its flexible options make it perfect for many different types of events. Potential uses include dance/exercise classes, community groups and functions

The Hall is based on the ground floor and has full disabled access. It comes equipped with interactive screen, chairs and single or meeting desks (upon request). Based on your requirements the room could be set up in many different ways, so please include full details on the booking request.

There is limited parking available on first come first served basis.

Should you wish to clarify anything, please use the messaging feature.

Location

Tower Road North, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 8XQ

Bikeability Cycle Training

OCTOBER HALF-TERM -HOLIDAY COURSE

Monday 26th October 2026 - Friday 30th October 2026

Practical cycle training delivered by South Gloucestershire Council's Bikeability team for trainees who live or go to school in South Gloucestershire. Children build confidence and essential skills with qualified, DBS checked instructors.

You will need: a roadworthy bike and a correctly fitted helmet.

Courses

⭐ **Learn to Ride (Year 3+)**

Cannot yet ride with pedals / without stabilisers. **1.5 hrs • Playground**

⭐ **Level 1 (Year 3+)**

Already riding without stabilisers; build confidence & control. **1.5 hrs • Playground**

⭐ **Level 1 & 2 (Year 5 & 6 and older)**

For riders who can cycle with control. Assessment in playground then on road: road position, priorities, hazards & junctions.

⭐ **Level 3 (Year 6+ with Level 2 completed)**

More complex roads & traffic situations. **2 hrs**

How to book:

Book online: Bikeability Holiday Cycle Training - South Gloucestershire Council

• A non-refundable booking fee of £5.50 applies.

• Places are limited: one course per child per holiday period.

• Cancellation: 48-hour notice required.

• Bikes may be available by prior agreement; bring your own helmet.

Contact us: cycle.training@southglos.gov.uk

Locations:

- Bradley Stoke Community School, Fiddlers Wood Lane, Bradley Stoke, BS32 9BS
- St Michael's Primary School, Ratcliffe Drive, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8SG

[redacted]


Reflections Training Academy
HAIRDRESSING & BARBERING
OPEN DAY
FRIDAY 30TH
OCTOBER @1PM
CALL TO BOOK
0117 9221 440
REGISTER NOW
Discover exciting opportunities in
Hairdressing, and Barbering.
15a Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5AP
www.reflectionstraining.co.uk


Ofsted
Good
Provider
NEXT
LEVEL
Open Day
Discover exciting opportunities in
Business Admin, Marketing, & Customer
Service. Come along for a chat!
Friday
30th
October
@ 10am
Reflections Training
Academy
15a Colston Street
Bristol, BS1 5AP
Register using
QR code:
Call 07717 376 008 to reserve your space
Or follow the QR code
www.nextleveltraining.uk.com



Admission to The Roman Baths is free for Discovery Card holders*
*Valid with BBNES Residents' Discovery Card
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

[redacted]



Future Me - Who am I?

A session for 14 to 25 year olds to explore their strengths and aspirations

- Thursday 12th November
- 6pm - 7.30pm
- At JIGSAW Thornbury
- £4 per young person
- Refreshments will be provided

www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk



[redacted]

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & INTEGRATION HUBS
for RESETTLING COMMUNITIES in South Gloucestershire

Alongside, ACH and The Care Forum provide support in Hubs
for all refugees, people seeking asylum, Ukrainian guests and hosts, and people from Hong Kong on BN(O) visas

Our weekly sessions offer:
- Advice around housing
- Information about Health and Wellbeing services
- Employment support
- Support with welfare benefits
- Information about services in South Gloucestershire
- Language skills provision

Thornbury Hub
Monday: advice 10.30am - 12.30pm
Thornbury Methodist Church Hall
(Hall entrance via Castle Court)
High Street, Thornbury, BS35 2AQ

Yate Hub
Monday: advice 10am -12pm
10am-12pm English Conversation Class
YMCA, Yate Station Road, Yate, BS37 4PQ
Thursday: advice 11am - 1pm (YMCA)
HK Club 9.30am-14.30pm
Yate Community Centre, 100 Station Rd, BS37 4PQ

Kingswood Hub
Tuesday: advice 10am-1pm
Thursday: advice 10am-1pm
Room 5, The Park Centre
Kingswood High Street, Kingswood,
Bristol, BS15 4AR

Patchway Hub
Tuesday: advice 10am-12pm
Wednesday: advice 2.30-4.30pm
1-1.30pm Free Hot halal lunch
1.30-2.30pm English Conversation Class
St Chad's Church
172 Rodway Rd, Patchway, BS34 5ED

Please check the Hub calendar for information:
https://tinyurl.com/SGhubs or call 0117 3327 960 or email hubenquiries@julianhouse.org.uk
Ask to be added to our WhatsApp group for the latest updates on Hub special events, workshops, and trips!

[redacted]

Changes to free school meal holiday supermarket vouchers

We are writing to let you know about an important change to the support available during school holidays for families whose children receive benefits-related free school meals.

Until now, you may have received supermarket vouchers to buy food for your children during the school holidays. The holiday voucher scheme was funded through a previous government grant. The government has changed the conditions attached to this funding, which means councils can no longer use it to provide holiday supermarket vouchers. Councils are now required to use the funding to provide targeted support to households experiencing financial crisis. This is a national policy change and is not a decision made by South Gloucestershire Council.

As part of our commitment to help residents through this transition period, South Gloucestershire Council continued to provide supermarket vouchers for eligible children until the end of the summer 2026 school holidays. However, from September 2026, holiday supermarket vouchers will no longer be available. The first school holiday affected will be the October 2026 half-term.

We understand that this news may be disappointing, particularly for families who have relied on this support during school holidays. We want to make sure you have plenty of notice of this change and make you aware of the alternative support on offer to help you and your family.

What other support is available?

I**f you are struggling with the cost of living, a range of support and advice is available through South Gloucestershire Council and our partner organisations.**

Support includes:

- **Emergency payments for families on a low-income experiencing a financial crisis**
- **Help to access enough food to eat, including food banks and community kitchens**
- **Advice on managing money and reducing household bills**

- **Support with debt and financial wellbeing**
- **Help to increase your income**
- **Mental health and wellbeing support**
- **Seasonal support and activities for children and families during school holidays**

Free school meals during term time

If your child is eligible, they will continue to receive free school meals at school in the usual way.

Eligible children can get free school meals through one of the following support arrangements:

- **Targeted support:** For children up to age 16 whose families receive certain benefits and/or have a low income. Eligible children will also have access to our Holiday Activities and Food programme during the main school holidays. These clubs and activities provide eligible children with a healthy meal each day they attend.
- **Expanded support:** From September 2026, children in households who do not quality for targeted free school meals, but are receiving Universal Credit, will receive free school meals until age 16.
- **Universal support:** available to all children in Reception, Year 1 and 2

Please use the following links for further information:

- Cost of Living support: www.southglos.gov.uk/costofliving
- Crisis & Resilience Fund: www.southglos.gov.uk/crisis-and-resilience-fund
- Free School Meals: www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
- Holiday and Food programme: www.southglos.gov.uk/HAF

We remain committed to supporting children and families across South Gloucestershire and making sure help is available for those who need it most.

Cost of Living team

South Gloucestershire Council

[redacted]

www.southglos.gov.uk/HAF

HAF@southglos.gov.uk



Website: *https://life.southglos.gov.uk* ***or scan the QR code***

[redacted]

Financial Support -

Financial support and wellbeing | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council (southglos.gov.uk)

[redacted]

Fundamental Wellbeing First Aid Courses available to book for South Gloucestershire Professionals and volunteers.

This two-day course accredits participants as a Mental Wellbeing First Aider.

The course is free, £25 for the course manual.

For more information and to book: SGC Learning Development Site.

You will need to login or register for a free account to book.

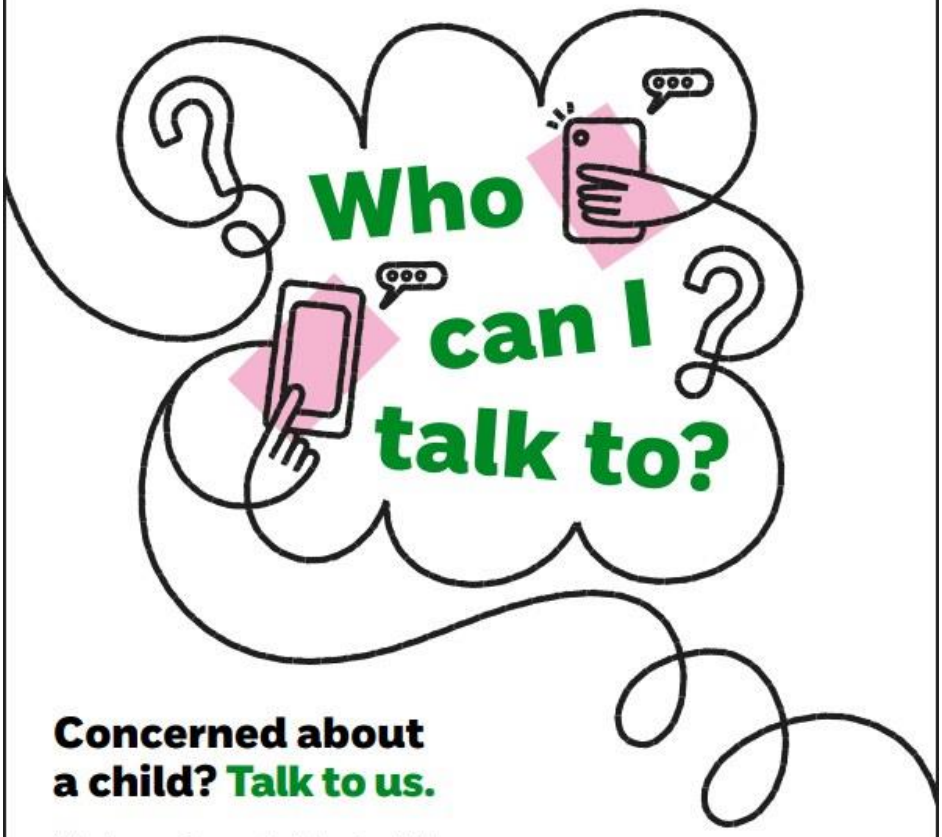
Dates 4th and 11th February 2027.

[redacted]

NSPCC

Helpline

For any concerns about a child
help@nspcc.org.uk | 0808 800 5000



Concerned about a child? Talk to us.

Whether you're worried about a child, or are looking for guidance or support, our child protection specialists can help.

Search **NSPCC Helpline**

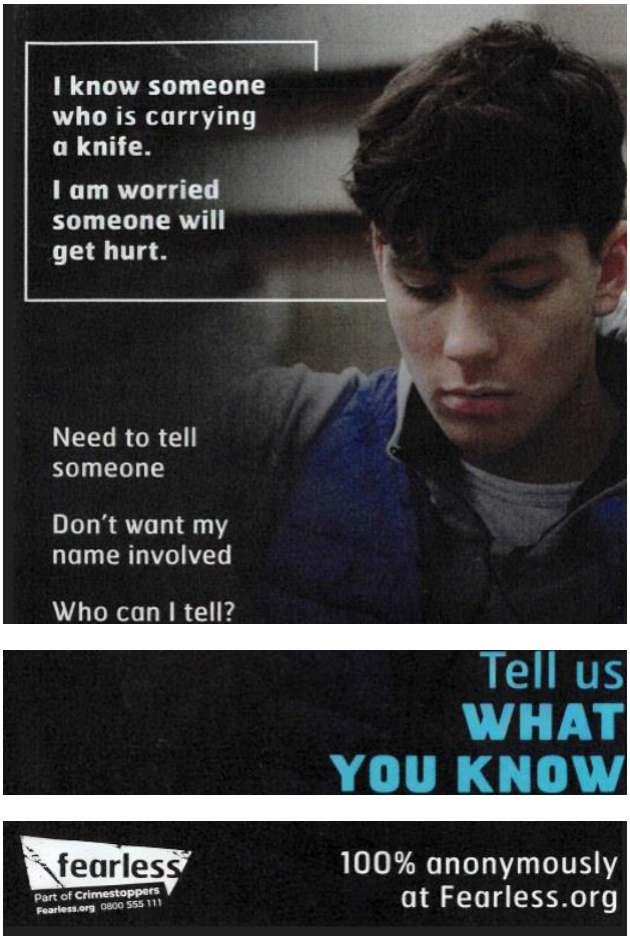
©NSPCC 2025. Registered charity England and Wales 216401. Scotland SC037717 and Jersey 384. Illustrations by Jonathan Calugi



Free counselling via an online webchat and free support/advice available 24/7 via confidential helpline, emails via the website.

Website: www.childline.org.uk

[redacted]



---

fearless.org

[redacted]


TRAVELLING HOME
ALONE?
Call Strut Safe
0333 335 0026
SCAN THE QR CODE TO SAVE THE NUMBER FOR LATER →
strut safe
In partnership with first bus


It's okay to not be okay
SCAN HERE FOR SUPPORT
Reach out for Support
Refuge
For women and children. Against domestic violence.
Support for men
If you're a man experiencing domestic abuse in the UK, Refuge can help.
FOR WOMEN
FOR MEN
you are NOT alone


2026
BRISTOL QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY
How do you feel about life in Bristol?
www.bristol.gov.uk/qol

- ***NHS website***

Advice for parents on a range of parenting issues, including talking to teenagers, fussy eating and teenage aggression. ***Website****: (www.nhs.uk)*

[redacted]

- ***CCP – Caring for communities and people***

Offer outreach support and parenting courses for families at an early help level.

Website*: (ccp.org.uk)*

[redacted]

- ***BETA***

BETA Cost of Living Support

South Gloucestershire Council

Website*: (Southglos.gov.uk)*

BETA Household Support Fund

South Gloucestershire Council

Website*: (southglos.gov.uk)*

The government has provided funding for us to support people who are struggling to buy food, pay for energy bills, and cover other essential costs linked to energy, also wider essentials such as sanitary products, warm clothing, soap and blankets).

BETA Financial Support and Wellbeing

South Gloucestershire Council

***Website**: (southglos.gov.uk)*

[redacted]



***Free self-referral** counselling service for young people age 11-15, who are experiencing low mood, depression, anxiety, phobias, self-harm, eating problems and/or anger.*

Young people can call, email or text, services operate in Patchway, Kingswood and Yate, and they also offer parent support groups and sessions.

See Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more information including up to date groups and activities.

Tel**: **0808 808 9120

Text**: **07896 880011

***Website**: (otrbristol.org.uk)*

***Email**: hello@otrbristol.org.uk*

[redacted]

• *Kooth*

Free safe and anonymous online support for young people 11-18, Monday - Friday 12pm- 10pm, Saturday and Sunday 6pm - 10pm.

Talk to our friendly counsellors, read articles written by young people and get support from the Kooth community.

***Website**: https://kooth.com*

[redacted]

• *Young Minds*

A National charity which offers confidential online and telephone information and support, for anyone worried about the emotional, behaviour, or the mental health of a child or young person up to 25 years of age, Including ADHD, Autism and Aspergers.

Young Minds Crisis Messenger Service Free 24/7 support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis.

***Text**: YM to 85258*

***Tel**: 0808 802 5544*

[redacted]

• SEND and You - 'SAY'

Local SEN and disability information service (SENDIAS) Information and support around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, for children, young people and families.

(previously Supportive Parents)

***Tel**: 0117 9897725 Mon-Fri 9.30 - 4.30*

(answerphone at other times)

***Website**: support@sendandyou.org.uk*

[redacted]

• JIGSAW

Jigsaw Thornbury support families who have children aged 0 -25 years with additional needs or disability, this can be anything from learning needs such as dyslexia to complex disabilities or medical problems, including undiagnosed.

They offer weekly support group for parents, carers and children, and training courses on a range of topics.

***Drop in sessions** run every Tuesday term time only, 10 - 11.30am, held at our venue.*

We provide a safe, fun and inclusive environment to relax and connect for parents and

carers, with or without their children.

Tel**: **01454 416381

***Website**: www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk*

For Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities - SEN Events, Meetings, Bristol Area and the South West.

***Lending Library**: There is a cost to borrow, although we aim to keep this as low as possible, most items are available for only £1 per week.*

Preview catalogue: [Lending Library | JIGSAW Thornbury.]

[redacted]

- ***South Glos Parents and Carers***

Information and groups for parents who have children with a disability and/or additional needs.

Offers a weekly drop in for parents and carers, support groups, workshops, counselling and events.

They also run the Parent Carer forum in South Gloucestershire to collect feedback and views from families with disabled children.

***Website**: (sgpc.org.uk)*

***Email**: team@sglospc.org.uk*

[redacted]

- ***South Gloucestershire Talking Therapies***

Vitaminds *Therapeutic interventions including counselling and group courses, in line with differing needs, age 16+.*

Self-referral via the website*: wellaware.org.uk*

Tel*: 0333 200 1893*

NHS Talking Therapies

North Somerset & South Gloucestershire

Website*: (vitahealthgroup.co.uk)*

[redacted]

- ***Samaritans****: Free confidential emotional support for those experiencing despair, distress, self-harm or suicidal feelings.*

Tel*: 116 123 (free from any phone, 24/7)*

Website*: www.samaritans.org*

'Here to listen'

Email*: jo@samaritans.org*

[redacted]

We look forward to welcoming all students back in school on Monday 2nd November.



[redacted]

Digitech
STUDIO SCHOOL BRISTOL

[redacted]