

Digitech Newsletter - Term One



1 - A MESSAGE FROM SIMON - HEAD OF SCHOOL.

I am writing to you at the end of a busy and enjoyable term one. We have been delighted with the way that our new year 10 and year 12 students have settled in and embraced the community which is Digitech! On our ten year anniversary, which is celebrated below, we have seen a number of exciting developments across the school. Highlights for me, in addition to the brilliant work that we have seen from students and staff in the classrooms, include our live lunches, start of the Envision program, our ring tone competition, our debut in a national E-Sports competition, and our student and staff recognition of Black History Month and World Mental Health Day. It's been an unprecedented long eight week term, and I wish all of our community a very restful break.

We look forward to seeing you in term two.



2 - TERM DATES 2025 - 2026

Term 2	
First day of term for students	Monday 3rd November 2025
Last day of term for students	Friday 19th December 2025
Term 3	
First day of term for students	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Last day of term for students	Friday 13th February 2026
INSET Dates	Monday 5th January 2026
Term 4	
First day of term for students	Tuesday 24th Feb 2026
Last day of term for students	Thursday 2nd April 2026
INSET Dates	Monday 23rd February 2026 Friday 13th March 2026
Bank Holidays	Friday 3rd April 2026
Term 5	
First day of term for students	Monday 20th April 2026
Last day of term for students	Friday 22nd May 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
Term 6	
First day of term for students	Monday 1st June 2026
Last day of term for students	Tuesday 21st July 2026
INSET Dates	Friday 3rd July 2026



3 - INFORMATION FROM PHIL OUR SAFEGUARDING LEAD



Parental controls guides

Find step-by-step guides and learn how to activate parental controls to manage children's devices, apps, and platforms to give them safer online experience

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/?paged=2>

4 - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/page/2/>



Monitoring apps guide for parents

In recent years, a wide variety of monitoring software solutions have appeared to allow you to see what children are doing online and set digital boundaries.

Explore our monitoring app advice and tips in the guides below.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/monitoring/>

5 - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/monitoring/>

General useful information from South Gloucestershire around how to access further support:

Any matters requiring an urgent response or are safeguarding concerns need to be discussed with the Access and Response Team at 01454 866000 or sent to AccessandResponse@southglos.gov.uk.

In the meantime please look through these links as there may be information that can help:

Looking for information about the Early Help Assessment and Plan (EHAP)?

[Early help assessment and plan | South Gloucestershire \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#) [Early Help Assessment and Plan | SafeguardingSouth Gloucestershire Safeguarding \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)

Looking for support for a child or young person's mental health?

Consider accessing support from the child or young person's GP or the School Health Nurse. For immediate concerns about a child or young person's mental health, they should see the GP or phone 111 as a matter of urgency.

Additional support please see below.

NHS Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Crisis Line: If it's not a 999 emergency, but you are experiencing an immediate mental health crisis, you can call the 24-hour daily mental health response line: **0800 9539599** We can talk to you during a mental health crisis if you're thinking of harming yourself, or if it's too urgent to wait to speak to your GP, CAMHS worker or school. You can talk to us if you are considering going to A&E for mental health reasons or if you are under 18 years or the person you care for is under 18. [I need help now : Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust \(awp.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Support with mental health and wellbeing for children | South Gloucestershire \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)

Looking for support for a parent or adult's mental health?

One You South Gloucestershire: One You South Gloucestershire is a healthy lifestyles and wellbeing service for adults to help make important, lasting improvements to their health. The

service is for all adults over the age of 18 who are a South Gloucestershire resident or registered with a GP practice in South Gloucestershire. <https://oneyou.southglos.gov.uk/>

Bristol Mind: Mental health resource for people in Bristol and the surrounding areas, providing information, signposting, advocacy, low-cost counselling and a hate crime service. Tel: 0808 808 0330 (Wednesday-Sunday 8pm-Midnight). Website: www.bristolmind.org.uk.
Transgender helpline: 0300 330 5468 (Mondays and Fridays 8pm-midnight).

Looking for information to support parents?

[Relationships matter | South Gloucestershire \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://southglos.gov.uk)

Looking for information about SEND?

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), Email:support@sendandyou.org.uk Website: <https://www.sendandyou.org.uk>

The SEND Local Offer: Information, advice, support and services available to meet a range of needs and on a range of topics, for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, and for their parents/carers. Website: [SEND Local Offer | South Gloucestershire](https://www.sendandyou.org.uk)

You will find more useful links at the end of the newsletter.



6 - YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT

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 then please contact: Mike Edwards – Young Carers SLT Champion, Mike.Edwards@clf.uk Tracey Roberts – Young Carers Operational Lead, Tracey.Roberts@clf.uk**
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Come and see your School Nurse
Get confidential advice and support about:



When: Wednesday Lunchtimes

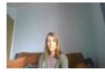
Where: Room- First Aid

You can also call us on: 0300 125 5151

You can also text our anonymous ChatHealth service using 07312 263 093: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm.

For more info visit: sirona-cic.org.uk/children-services/services/chathealth/

Your school nurse is:
Jane



Your confidentiality

We do not usually inform your parents, teachers or anyone else if you contact the school nurse. We might inform someone if we are concerned about your safety, but we would always try to speak to you first.

Service provided by
Sirona
care & health

8 - DIGITECH CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF INNOVATION IN CREATIVE AND DIGITAL EDUCATION



On Wednesday 10th of September we celebrated our 10 year anniversary.

To commemorate the occasion, students, staff, and alumni came together to reflect on the past decade, sharing memories and celebrating the achievements of the school community.

Among the highlights remembered was the school's official opening by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, a proud moment in the school's history.

DSSB has established itself as a specialist school for the creative and digital industries, offering a unique curriculum designed to bridge the gap between education and employment for students aged 14 to 19.

Over the past decade, DSSB has supported thousands of young people in developing the skills, experience, and confidence needed to succeed in the fast-growing creative and technology sectors.

Simon Jones, Head of School, said: "Over the past ten years, Digitech Studio School has grown into a vibrant community where creativity and innovation thrive.

We are incredibly proud of the opportunities our students have seized and the careers they have gone on to build in the digital and creative industries.

As we celebrate this milestone, we are equally excited about the future — continuing to equip the next generation with the skills, confidence, and imagination to succeed in an ever-evolving world."



9 - DUKE OF EDINBURGH

In the final week of the last academic year, a group of students completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition and completed their award - Well Done.

Simone Ryan

PE Teacher and DofE Manager







Our current year 10 students have recently been given a snap-shot presentation on the D of E Award at Digitech and what we offer.

Students are now encouraged to show their interest and sign up by talking to Daniel in the Enterprise team. Likewise, if an adult would like to know more or sign up a student, please do email me. daniel.malpass@clf.uk

We are offering students both Bronze and Silver Award this year, these will involve lunchtime team meetings and a few after school sessions to focus on map reading and outdoor cooking skills. We will conduct an overnight practise expedition in the summer, preceding the official expeditions before the end of year 10.

We are very fortunate that staff at our school are very keen to volunteer their time to run this award, with the total cost to parents at around £80, this supports registration, travel and camping costs.



10 - MEET OUR LOVELY PASTORAL TEAM



Steph, Kelly and Alice play a vital role in supporting our students' wellbeing and emotional needs.

They also help maintain the connection between home and school.

If you have any concerns please feel free to reach out to them.

Alice.Smith@clf.uk

Stephanie.Balmond@clf.uk

Kelly.Dodge@clf.uk



11 - FROM OUR ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

*We've had a busy first term in the English Department! Students in Year 10 have explored many writing workshops to develop their creative writing skills, and they have also started to analyse some poems from the 'Power and Conflict' anthology, including the well-known Ozymandias. For those in Year 11, we've studied the play 'An Inspector Calls' and worked to prepare students for their mock exams. Those are **English Language Paper 1** and **English Literature Paper 2**. As ever, we encourage students to read widely and for pleasure outside of school – they should check out the Library and Wider Reading Lists – and to get in the homework habit with weekly Seneca tasks. Get in touch with us for any English queries:*

Ash Williams

Laura Ball

Colleen Litchfield



12 - INTERNATIONAL BAND SHIRT DAY





International Band Shirt Day - 19th of September, students and staff were encouraged to wear a shirt or hoodie promoting their favourite band/artist. Tom Corneill from the band Young Martyrs came in to talk to our Year 11s and 13s about music composition, collaboration and careers in the Music Industry. Tom explained how important it was to support bands through buying merchandise and tickets etc, as it is almost impossible for artists to make a living from music without this. Tom then played our first Live Lunch of the year, delivering an incredible acoustic set of solo originals and Young Martyrs material. The students learnt so much from Tom's visit, fingers crossed we may see him back with Young Martyrs for a set at Digifest in the Spring!

13 - STAFF AND STUDENTS WERE INVITED TO WEAR YELLOW IN SUPPORT OF WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY





14 - GIVE RACISM THE RED CARD DAY

Showing our commitment to kindness and respect, on Friday 17th Of October, students and staff were invited to wear red to school, celebrating our inclusive and compassionate community at Digitech.



Starting from November 5th we will be competing in the British Student Championships!

We will have two teams taking part in the Rocket League and Marvel Rivals competitions. This is an exciting time for our students as this will be our first venture into the realms of competitive esports!

Our fixtures will take place every Wednesday at 4pm in the esports room and we are all very much looking forward to the challenges that await us in the British Student Championships - stay posted for results!

Daniel Gallop

Teacher of Enterprise



Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 work experience has been launched this term. This year we are offering 2 opportunities for students. Our compulsory work experience week is **July 6th-10th 2026** where the expectation is that all students will be out on placement. This placement can take place anywhere that the student is able to secure something. Students have been given guidelines as to how to find these placements and will be given time in their Digitech Plus lessons to research this. The second opportunity we are offering is for students to go out at any time during year 10

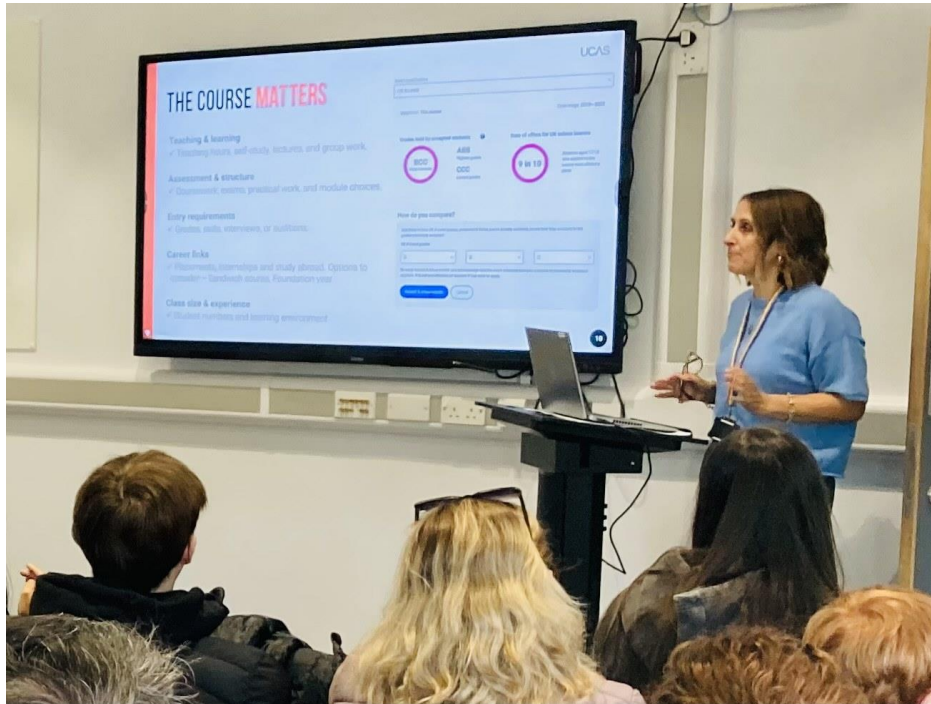
avoiding their mock exams. The requirement for this placement is that it must be within the industries that we emphasise here at Digitech (creative / Media / Digital / Technology). Our hope is that those students that are keen will now have the flexibility to find a placement that is purposeful and will add value to their career learning journey. Work experience offers a great opportunity for students; it is a key part of our careers programme here at Digitech and 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 students have found their placement this needs to be reported to either Jane Morgan (jane.morgan@clf.uk) or Martine Thomas (martine.thomas@clf.uk) by **Friday 22nd May 26** so that we can get all the paperwork completed by **Friday 26th June 2026**. For the flexible placement this needs to be reported with enough time to get the paperwork completed and in place before the placement is due to start. Drop-in sessions will be happening every Tuesday breaktime in the canteen for students to come with any work experience related questions or to report placements, please encourage your child to come along. As a school we do not have the capacity to find placements but can certainly help with giving ideas or showing how to contact employers.

Year 11 Post 16 Pathways Year 11 assemblies this term have had a focus on next steps with guest speakers from local colleges coming in to showcase what they can offer. We've heard from City of Bristol College, Access Creative, SGS College and St Brendan's and have Boomsatsuma coming in after half term. Students have been encouraged to visit these places at open events to find out more. With places on popular courses filling up fast we are encouraging all students to apply for at least one college / 6th form by Christmas to ensure they can get a place on their preferred course. Jane Morgan our careers lead will on hand to help with all matters to do with post 16 plans, if you have a question or need help, please contact her on jane.morgan@clf.uk.

UCAS applications At Digitech we ensure that all students see university as a viable next step therefore this term Year 13 have been focusing on the university application process. We had a guest speaker from Falmouth university to impart his wisdom on how to write the perfect personal statement and this process is now continuing with input from Year 13 teaching staff and Jane Morgan our careers lead. Our guest speaker will be back on 24th Nov to talk to students about student finance and will be available to look at students' personal statements and give his feedback. We had a successful Year 13 parents meeting with several parents attending to hear all about the UCAS process. We also had a guest speaker Vanessa Boyce from Western Apprenticeships who gave an excellent presentation on apprenticeships and what could be on offer for our students. If you need any further help or information about anything to do with your students next steps, please contact our careers lead Jane Morgan at jane.morgan@clf.uk

Jane Morgan

Careers and Employability Coach



17 - ON A FINISHING NOTE - OUR 'ON HOLD' PHONE LINE COMPETITION

With over 250 votes across the week, 31.2% of all votes were for our winner - Leyton Year 12.

Leyton's piece has been praised for its fresh, upbeat tone with a good level of compositional skill and a consistent dynamic, perfect for a piece of 'on hold' music. Leyton met every part of the brief and is a worthy winner.

The music will be loaded onto the Digitech Phone system in the coming days.

A huge thank you to all the students who entered, all seven of the shortlisted pieces would have made perfect on hold music and should be highly commended, all received chocolates and house points.

You can listen to the seven entries here: <https://sameason.wixsite.com/music/onhold25>

Amazing work, well done all!

Sam Eason

Deputy SENCO & Teacher of Music



18 - USEFUL LINKS, INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

In today's digital world, social media plays a huge role in young people's life. While it offers great opportunities for connection and learning, it also presents risks that parents and carers should be aware of. <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2025/02/24/social-medias-impact> "Tech-facilitated abuse: Guide for parents" <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/expert-opinion/teen-relatio>

- **NHS website:** Advice for parents on a range of parenting issues, including talking to teenagers, fussy eating and teenage aggression. Website: [Live Well - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)
- **CCP – Caring for Communities and People** – Offer outreach support and parenting courses for families at an early help level. [Home \(ccp.org.uk\)](http://ccp.org.uk)
- Information on different ways of getting support with the cost of living rising [Cost of living help | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](http://southglos.gov.uk)
- [Household support fund | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](http://southglos.gov.uk)

The government has provided funding for us to support people who are struggling to: buy food pay energy bills

cover other essential costs linked to energy and wider essentials (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets)

- [Financial support and wellbeing | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](http://southglos.gov.uk)
- **Off The Record:** 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, and services operate in Patchway, Kingswood and Yate. Also offer parent support groups and sessions. Can also see [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more information and up to date groups and activities. Tel: 0808 808 9120. Text: 07896 880011. Website: [Home - OTR \(otrbristol.org.uk\)](http://otrbristol.org.uk) Email: hello@otrbristol.org.uk
- **Kooth:** Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people 11-18. Monday – Friday 12pm – 10pm, Saturday – Sunday 6pm – 10pm. On Kooth you can: Chat to our friendly counsellors; Read articles written by young people; Get support from the Kooth community; Write in a daily journal. Website: [https://kooth.com/ Home - Kooth](https://kooth.com/)

- **Childline:** Free counselling via online webchat, and free support/advice available 24/7 via confidential helpline, and emails via the website. Tel: 0800 11 11. Website: www.childline.org.uk [Childline | Childline](#)

- **Young Minds** national charity offers confidential online and telephone information and support for anyone worried about the emotional, behaviour, or mental health of a child/young person up to 25 years of age, including ADHD, Autism and Aspergers. **Parents**

Helpline: 0808 802 5544 Website: [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#)

- **Young Minds Crisis Messenger Service** for free 24/7 support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis. Text YM to 85258.

- **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: [South Glos Parent Carers \(sgpc.org.uk\)](http://SouthGlosParentCarers.sgpc.org.uk) Email: team@sglospc.org.uk

- **JIGSAW Thornbury** Support families who have children who are 0-25 years and have any additional needs or disability. This can be anything from learning needs such as dyslexia to complex disabilities or medical problems. Many children who come have no diagnosis. Weekly support group for parents, carers and children + training courses on a range of topics. Telephone: 01454 416381 Website: [JIGSAW Thornbury | For Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities - SEN Lending Library, Events, Meetings, Bristol Area and the South West.](#)

The South Glos LIFE homepage has more information about services in South Glos [South Glos LIFE](#)

- **South Gloucestershire Talking Therapies - Vitamins:** Therapeutic interventions including counselling and group courses, in line with people's differing needs, age 16+. Self-referral via the website: wellaware.org.uk Tel - **0333 200 1893** [NHS Talking Therapies - Bristol Mental Health Service - North Somerset & South Gloucestershire \(vitahealthgroup.co.uk\)](#)
- **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 [Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen](#) Email: jo@samaritans.org



Keynsham Lifesaving Club

Learn first aid and water-based rescue techniques in a relaxed, fun environment.

Lifesaving is the ideal way to improve your fitness and confidence, whilst learning skills that could save someone's life.

Keynsham Lifesaving Club offers a range of Royal Lifesaving Society qualifications, including the Rookie Lifeguard award and the new National Lifesaving Academy. We enter competitions across the country and run open-water training in the summer.

Ages 8-18. Your first session is free
- come along and give it a go!

Sundays 2-4pm (Term-time only)

Keynsham Leisure Centre

For further information visit our website:

www.klsc.co.uk

Or contact chairman@klsc.co.uk

Or call 07921 719 291

Drop-In SEND Support

@ Our Community Base,
Kingswood

🕒 **Tuesdays & Thursdays**
10:00am - 1:30pm
Term Time Only

🧸 **Children welcome**
we have toys and games, an
outdoor area and sensory
room with hoist.

🗣️ **SAY**
SEND/AS
Speak with a friendly adviser
from SEND and You (SAY) each
month for free advice and
support.

🐒 **Gympanzees Lending Library**
Partner Hub

Here at South Glos Parent Carers we
are all parent carers, so we truly
understand the challenges and joys of
raising a child with Special
Educational Needs and Disabilities
(SEND).



The Kingswood
Centre, New
Cheltenham Road,
BS15 4FS



**Are you feeling confused,
frustrated or isolated on your
child's SEND journey? Do you
need someone to talk to about the
challenges you are facing?**

Come along to our relaxed and
friendly parent support drop-in.
Meet our Peer Support Team
who can:

- ✓ Help you become more confident in identifying and supporting your child's needs
- ✓ Signpost you to services that may be beneficial to your family
- ✓ Provide a listening ear over a cuppa

**Your child does not need to
have a diagnosis for you to
access any of our support**



 sgpc.org.uk

Online Workshops



Introduction to Autism
Tuesday 14th October
7:00pm - 9:00pm



Understanding & Supporting Sensory Differences
Wednesday 5th November
10:00am - 1:00pm



Neurodiversity & Sleep
Thursday 20th November
7:00pm - 9:00pm



Understanding & Supporting Anxiety
Wednesday 10th December
10:00am - 1:00pm

We are happy to say that due to funding, we are able to provide our workshops free of charge.



SCAN HERE!

Bookings open 2 months before the workshop date.



Being a parent carer of a child or young person with SEND can bring extra situations which are challenging to know how to handle.

Our online workshops are here to empower you on your child's SEND journey.

- ✓ Confidence in understanding and meeting your child's needs.
- ✓ Ideas, effective strategies and signposting to other services.
- ✓ A chance to ask questions, as well as receive extra support if needed.

Your child does not need to have a diagnosis for you to access any of our support



sgpc.org.uk

GREAT DREAM

Ten Keys to Happier Living



GIVING

Do things for others



DIRECTION

Have goals to look forward to



RELATING

Connect with people



RESILIENCE

Find ways to bounce back



EXERCISING

Take care of Your body



EMOTIONS

Look for what's good



AWARENESS

Life life mindfully



ACCEPTANCE

Be comfortable with who you are



TRYING OUT

Keep learning new things



MEANING

Be part of something bigger

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier • Kinder • Together

Action for Happiness is a registered charity (1175160) actionforhappiness.org

South Glos LIFE

Local information
for everyone



Community groups, events and what's on in your area



Family advice, parenting support, childcare and education options



Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services and information

Advice and support for adults of all ages, how to stay safe and independent at home and care options for older people



An accessible source of information, advice and guidance for people living in South Gloucestershire, built by us with local partner organisations.
life.southglos.gov.uk