

Digitech Studio School Bristol Newsletter - Term 6



1 - A MESSAGE FROM SIMON, OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL.

Thank you for taking the time to read this term's newsletter!

As you can see from the various articles, we have had a brilliant term ranging from another Envision victory, to celebrating year 11s time at school at the leavers' assembly and prom, not to mention the brilliant work produced on a day to day basis by our students. Our new house system has come into force this term, and we will be enjoying rewarding the students who have embraced this most, as well as achieving the highest lesson scores, in the final days of term. It just remains for me to say thank you for your continued support across this year, and I wish all of our community a safe and restful summer.

Simon Jones

(Head of School)

Digitech Studio School



2 - TERM DATES 2025 - 2026

Term 1	
First day of term for students	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Last day of term for students	Wednesday 22 nd October 2025
INSET Dates	Monday 1st September 2025 Tuesday 2nd September 2025 Thursday 23rd October 2025 Friday 24th October 2025
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 - SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE USE OF AI, INFORMATION FROM PHIL OUR SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Dear Parents and Carers

AI tools like ChatGPT are becoming more common in education and at home. They can be helpful—but also come with risks.

Benefits:

- **Learning Aid:** Helps explain topics and support homework.
- **Creativity:** Encourages storytelling and idea generation.
- **Accessibility:** Offers personalised support for different learning needs.

Risks:

- **Inaccuracy:** May give incorrect or misleading information.
- **Overuse:** Can reduce critical thinking if relied on too much.
- **Privacy:** Some tools collect data—check settings and permissions.
- **Content:** May occasionally produce inappropriate responses.
- **Deepfakes:** AI can create fake videos or images that look real—children may struggle to tell what's true.
- **AI Bots:** Some bots pretend to be real people online—this can lead to misinformation or unsafe interactions.

What You Can Do:

- Talk to your child about how they use AI.
- Encourage balanced use and fact-checking.
- Use trusted tools with strong safety features.

Used wisely, AI can support your child's learning. Your guidance makes all the difference.

Below are some recommended videos for your awareness. They will provide a useful insight into the challenges that children and young people potentially face.

By being aware of these risks, both the school and our parents and carers can help reduce and mitigate for them.

AI is an area of focus within our Digitech Plus curriculum, which our pupils will be taught throughout their time with us.

Please get in contact with the school should you have any queries or concerns in relation to any safeguarding matter, via these channels, info@digitechstudioschool.co.uk: or 0117 992 7100.

Warm regards,

Phil de Scossa (Safeguarding Lead) & Simon Jones Deputy Safeguarding Lead and Vice Principal

Gen AI: The Harms Landscape - <https://youtu.be/XEsHwss2x8E?si=4b6lA5y9Xa3WAPww>

Protect Us. - <https://youtu.be/OuH-D-au1Ho?si=m2J3lgRFmbucPu8w>

Can The Charvas work out who is REAL and who is FAKE? | Childline - <https://youtu.be/Kl-iRm9iTh8?si=2NgiR6i051ygPUh->



4 - 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 2 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**
-



Community Children's Health Partnership **NHS**

Come And See Your School Nurse

Get confidential advice and support about:



Mental health and anxiety management



Healthy eating



Healthy Relationships



LGBTQA+



Drugs, alcohol and smoking



Dental health



Sexual health



Sleep



Physical health concerns



Toileting troubles

When: Wednesday 12:50—13:20

You can also text our anonymous ChatHealth service using **07312 263 093**: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm.
For more info visit: bit.ly/ChatHealthCCHP

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

Service provided by

Sirona
care is health



6 - 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



7 - AN INSIGHT INTO WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON HERE AT DIGITECH THIS TERM

Outlaw, a graphic design agency came into school to speak to our graphics students about the different roles within a design studio. They demonstrated an example project to show what being a graphic designer is like.

It was a really engaging talk and the students were fantastic!



8 - FIRST YEAR STUDENTS FROM BRISTOL SCHOOL OF ACTING DELIVERED TWO BRILLIANT PERFORMANCES



9 - WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK

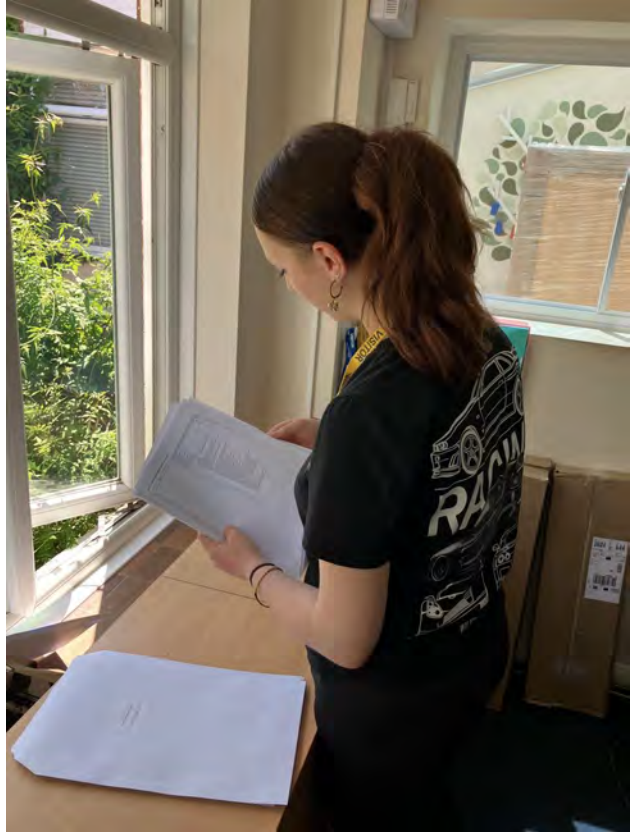
Here are some lovely photos of just some of our students who were on work experience this week.

Job roles varied from flower arranging, IT fixing lap tops, Dog walking, Construction and Administration, to working in Cafés, Care home's, Schools, and much more.





















10 - DUKE OF EDINBURGH STUDENTS IN ACTION!

At the beginning of this term, 8 students completed their practice Bronze DofE Expedition. It was an expedition of two halves, Wednesday extremely hot and everything was hard work, Thursday we had rain like we have never seen before with visibility very limited in places. All students completed the practice, having walked for miles carrying their ruck sack with everything they needed in it.

WELL DONE! Roll on the Assessment Expedition 17/18 July.





11 - HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR YEAR 11 PROM







12 - DIGITECH STUDENT GILBERT MARTIN - ON BBC POINTS WEST

Please take a look at this BBC Points West link below, Gilbert Martin a talented year 11 student at Digitech, has received top honours in the Scoot GB National Final, showing what he has achieved through practice and determination.

<https://digitechstudioschool.co.uk/news/digitech-studio-school-student-on-bbc-points-west/>



13 - 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-relationship-tech-facilitated-abuse/>

- **Solihull** – online parenting resources for parents, carers, grandparents and teenagers in South Glos. This is **free** lifetime access to a range of e-learning and online resources which span from pregnancy to 19 years. These courses can be worked through at a pace which suits the individual, with the aim of increasing parental knowledge and confidence around child development through all stages of the parenting journey. The courses aim to nurture emotional health and wellbeing so that our children can thrive as kind,

sociable and emotionally aware people throughout their lives. [inourplace | Solihull Approach – South Gloucestershire | inourplace](#)

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

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)

- [Places Kids Eat Free in the Summer Holidays 2024 \(moneysavingcentral.co.uk\)](#) is a website that tells families restaurants where kids eat free throughout the holidays.
- [Financial support and wellbeing | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)
- **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 \(otrbristol.org.uk\)](#) 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](#)
- **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 of you are experiencing a mental health crisis. Text YM to 85258.
- **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: [Home - SEND and You](#)

- **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 \(sgpc.org.uk\)](#) 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 - 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**



GET STARTED WITH FILMMAKING

Everyone starts somewhere. Learn from industry experts, get invaluable experience and a taste of what it is like to work in the filmmaking sector.

Find out more via webchat at:
kingstrust.org.uk or email:
bristol.outreach@kingstrust.org.uk



ON THIS COURSE YOU'LL:

- Learn and practice key filmmaking techniques
- Gain insight into the film & television industry
- Boost confidence and wellbeing through creativity
- Have up to six 1-1 sessions post-programme

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Taster day: Wed 13th August 2025
Course dates: Mon 18th - Fri 22nd August 2025
Express interest by: Fri 8th August 2025
Location: Bristol
Eligibility criteria: 16-30 years old





GET STARTED WITH COOKING

Everyone starts somewhere. Learn from industry experts, get invaluable experience and a taste of what it is like to work in the food industry.

Find out more via webchat at: kingstrust.org.uk or email@ outreach.bristol@kingstrust.org.uk



ON THIS COURSE YOU'LL:

- Learn different cooking and food preparation techniques
- Visit local food producers and suppliers
- Have access to a range of follow up opportunities within the sector
- Receive up to six 1-1 support post programme to help you achieve your goals

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Taster day: Tues 7th Oct 2025
 Course dates: Mon 13th - Fri 17th Oct 2025
 Express interest by: Wed 1st Oct 2025
 Location: Co-Exist, Bristol
 Eligibility criteria: 16 - 30 years old



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Kings Trust

GET STARTED WITH NATURE

Everyone starts somewhere. Learn from industry experts, get invaluable experience and a taste of what it is like to work in nature.

Find out more via webchat at: kingstrust.org.uk or email: outreach.bristol@kingstrust.org.uk



ON THIS COURSE YOU'LL:

- Learn about conservation and how wildlife and people can thrive together
- Understand the effects animals and nature have on our wellbeing
- Find out about different roles in conservation
- Get support for up to six 1-1s post programme

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Taster day: Wed 24th Sept 2025
 Course dates: Mon 29th Sept - Fri 3rd Oct 2025
 Express interest by: Fri 19th Sept 2025
 Location: Grow Wilder, Bristol
 Eligibility criteria: 16 - 30 years old



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WEST

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That's summer sorted

19 July – 5 September

Funded by UK Government

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P16 CABOT LEARNING FEDERATION
Care • Believe • Achieve

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Your future starts here...

CLF Post 16 Enrolment

Thursday 21st - Thursday 28th August 2025

Post 16 Eye, John Cabot Academy,
Woodside Road, Bristol BS15 8BD

See website for Enrolment
process and to book a time,
use the QR code.



You are
welcome to
join us even if
you have not
previously
made an
application



Tel: 0117 988 2525
Email: info@p16.clf.uk

www.post16.clf.uk





Bikeability - Cycle Training for the 21st Century

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CYCLE TRAINING COURSES

BEFORE BOOKING YOUR COURSE, PLEASE READ BELOW CAREFULLY

- All courses are subject to a £5 Booking Fee which is non-refundable, so please make sure you book the correct course for your child.
- Places are limited so they are booked on a first come basis. Please only book 1 course for each child during the holiday.
- The child must have a roadworthy bike with 2 working brakes and have a properly fitting helmet.

Bikeability Learn to Ride This course is for School Year 3 and above.

This session is for trainees who **cannot** ride a bike with pedals without stabilisers, (including older children who have never mastered the skill). The session lasts 1.5 hours. Riders need time to absorb and practise the Learn to Ride skills, therefore they **MUST NOT** attend a Learn to Ride and a Level 1 course within the same holiday period.

Level 1 This course is for School Year 3 and above who can cycle without stabilisers.

This session is intended for existing riders to build on their confidence and to learn to control and master their bikes in a space away from traffic such as a playground or a closed car park. For more details about the content go to: [Bikeability Level 1](#) Session lasts 1.5 hours.

Level 2 This course is for School Year 5 and above who can cycle confidently and with control.

This is a one-day course from 9.15am – 2.45pm. There is an initial assessment in the playground covering level 1 skills to ensure they are ready for on-road training. Once out on the road, they will learn about road position, which road user has priority and when, and how to recognise typical hazards as well as manoeuvring through junctions. For more details about the content of the course go to: [Bikeability Level 2](#)

Level 3 Trainees must be in School Year 6 or above. This course is for competent riders.

All riders MUST have completed a level 2 course to an acceptable level prior to enrolling on this course. An acceptable level is where on the back of their level 2 certificate each box is ticked either **Independently** or **With More Practice**. If any of the boxes are ticked as either **With Some Assistance** or **Not Yet Attempted** they should attend another Level 2 course. Riders need time to absorb and practise the Level 2 skills, therefore they **MUST NOT** attend a Level 2 and a Level 3 course within the same holiday period.

This 2-hour course aims to equip riders with skills for more challenging roads and traffic situations such as using multi-lane roundabouts and traffic lights, passing queuing traffic, road narrowing, understanding blind spots and how to perceive and deal with hazards. For more details about the content, go to: [Bikeability Level 3](#)

Courses are being held at **The Mall, Cribbs Causeway, Bristol BS34 6DG, Bradley Stoke Community Secondary School, Fiddlerswood Lane, Bradley Stoke BS32 9BS, Watermore Primary School, Lower Stone Close, Frampton Cotterell BS36 2LE.**

To book on one of the above courses please log onto <https://southglos.cyclersadv.co.uk/publicbookings>

All instructors are DBS checked and work for the Council's Road Safety Team. Bikeability certificates are awarded to all trainees who successfully complete the course.

Please note courses are subject to a minimum number of children attending on the date. Locations of training may vary according to availability.

South Glos LIFE
Local information
for everyone

South Gloucestershire
Council
Education with you

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

14 - ON A FINISHING NOTE

AS WE CONCLUDE OUR SCHOOL YEAR, PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL FINISHES AT THE EARLIER TIME OF 12.00 TUESDAY 22nd JULY.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND OUR BEST WISHES TO OUR YEAR 11 LEAVERS, WE HOPE YOU STAY IN TOUCH AND KEEP US UPDATED ON YOUR PROGRESS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEW YEAR 10'S STARTING ON WEDNESDAY 3rd OF SEPTEMBER, AND WE WELCOME ALL OTHER YEAR GROUPS BACK AT SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 4th OF SEPTEMBER.

UNTIL THEN, STAY SAFE AND WELL AND HAVE A FANTASTIC SUMMER!