

Newsletter

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.

C.S. Lewis

What's In This Issue?

Notice Board
Achievements
House News
Subject Update: Music
Art



History
Library
Sports
Careers
Community

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Thank you to everyone who has responded so quickly and positively to the School's plans for a phone-free education here at BFS and to those who have already paid via ParentPay for their child's lockable Yondr pouch. If you have not yet made payment, we kindly ask that you do so by Sunday 22 June.

Please see our website for more information on our journey to becoming a phone-free school: [Bristol Free School - Phone-Free Policy](#).



MR EAST

Understanding the Impacts of Smartphones on Bristol's Children

At a recent talk held locally by [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) and [Papaya](#), the following facts were shared:

- The average UK child spends 3 hours 48 mins a day online. That is 26.6 hours a week, 58 days a year, 11 years 67 days over a lifetime.
- Pre-teens lose the equivalent of a night's sleep per week to social media and 73% of teenagers take their phone to bed with them.
- 1 in 5 children are bullied online and young people aged 16-24 are the loneliest group in society.
- 94% of children are exposed to porn by age 14 and the average first exposure to porn is whilst doing homework at age 12.

Opportunity to Ask Questions

We have put together an information sheet with [Frequently Asked Questions](#) however, we will also be hosting an online event to allow you to ask any more questions you might have. The event will be on Wednesday 11 June at 5pm and you will hear a bit more information from Mr East about the plans for this initiative and have the opportunity to ask any further questions. If you would like to send your questions in advance, please email them to admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.

Join the online event on Wednesday 11 June at 5pm.

We plan to begin using the lockable pouches towards the end of Term 6 however, we have not yet published the launch date as we want to ensure that everything is in place before rolling out to the students.

Please can families who have not yet paid for their child's pouch on ParentPay do this by Sunday 22 June. Following the launch, students without pouches will no longer be able to bring phones to school.

If you would like to help another family with the cost of the pouch, an idea suggested by some of our parents, you can now *pay it forwards* by making a donation via your ParentPay account. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr East

Deputy Headteacher

A NOTE FROM MR EAST



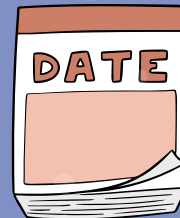
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 9 June - Friday 13 June

Y7 EoY Exams

Monday 9 June - Friday 20 June

Y11 & Y13 Summer Exam Series

Monday 9 June

Y10 DT Trip to Harry Potter Studios

Y12 Photography Exam

Tuesday 10 June

Y10 Photography Exam

Wednesday 11 June

Y10 Photography Exam

Y10 NHS Taster Day

Y12 Trip to Cardiff University

Naples Trip Information Evening for Parents: 5-6pm

Thursday 12 June

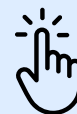
Y10 Art Exam

Y10 Subject Evening: 3.30-7pm

Friday 13 June

Y10 Art Exam

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

WE'RE HIRING

Teaching Assistant

Cover Supervisor

Apply Now

Second-Hand Uniform

Please consider donating outgrown uniform to the School. We are in need of good quality, clean second-hand uniform, especially in smaller sizes. Thank you.



Free Period Products

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

- Student Services
- Sixth Form Admin Office
- PE Changing Rooms
- Mrs Gardiner's Room
- Behaviour Office
- Mental Health & Safeguarding Room
- Head of Year Offices

- Main Reception
- SEND Office
- Behaviour Room



BFS PRESENTS MUSIC AND DRAMA SUMMER SHOWCASE



THURSDAY 3 JULY

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON ON PARENTPAY

National Thank a Teacher Day

The UK-wide celebration of all teaching and support staff is back. National Thank a Teacher Day will be celebrated on Wednesday 18 June! As always, we will be celebrating all the amazing teaching and support staff at BFS - from the reception staff to the classroom assistants and librarians. They deserve the spotlight for everything they do to keep things running smoothly.

Want to make someone's day?

If you know a special teacher, dedicated support staff member or even a whole school team, let them know how grateful you are by sending a free e-card at www.thankateacher.co.uk or email your message to newsletter@bristolfreeschool.org.uk to say a public thank you in the newsletter!



Cashless Catering

We are changing our cashless catering system from Civica to Cunninghams. The new system will allow us to continue with the development of the school meal service, and will provide us with a more efficient, faster and ultimately better quality of service.

No changes will be required on your part however we will be scanning students' fingers/thumbs (for those that have given consent) over the coming weeks.

Please rest assured that this information is strongly encrypted using the highest-grade encryption standards.



Medical Appointments

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

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

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

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





REPRESENTING BRISTOL

A massive congratulations to the following students for being selected to represent Bristol at the Avon Schools Athletics Championships on Saturday 7 June. They have been selected for their events as being in the top two out of all Bristol schools, which is incredible - well done!

Year 8

Iris B-L (1500m)

Year 9

Rory H (200m, 300m AND 800m!)

Abi B (300m)

Year 10

Lilia B-L (800m, 1500m)

Archie P (200m)

Sophie D (long jump)

Martha S (shot)

We cannot wait to hear how you all get on!

Good luck!

TRAILBLAZING HEROES

Congratulations to Mia B-G in Year 7 who was selected as a runner up in E.ON's New Energy Academy Trailblazing Heroes competition. Mia wrote about her hero, Kenyan activist, leader, founder, political advocate and environmentalist, Wangari Maathai. You can read Mia's entry in our [9 May Newsletter](#).

There were many great entries for the judging panel to review, so Mia should feel very proud of her achievement. Mia has also won a set of 30 New Energy Academy branded re-usable water bottles for 7TG2!



FOOTBALL WINS

A group of our Year 7 boys play for Rockleaze Rangers U12s and have won the Bristol Saturday Youth League Cup Final, beating Stoke Lane 3-2 in a nail biting final. Stoke Lane took an early lead before Elkanah equalised with a low right footed shot from just outside the box. The action was end to end and the Reds kept pushing for their second goal. With 6 mins left on the clock, Jamie and Elkanah scored the winning goals! An amazing end to the season and congratulations to both teams for such an exciting final.

Well done to Elkanah F, Stanley R, Hugo E, Jack W, Jamie D, Sam R, Max A, Omer G and Alfie B.

Well done!





HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Durdham!

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Max A, George P	Mia B-G, Sophie R, Lyla E	Oscar B	Isaac H
Year 8	Tiana M	Emma W	Joseph T	Paris E
Year 9	Angelin V	Lauren R	Carla D	Lucy C, Imani P
Year 10	Penelope B	Benjamin W	Chloe D	Jacob F


LOGO COMPETITION

Why not have a go at designing a digital logo and enter this brilliant competition? You could win a great prize and earn House points!

- Design a logo to represent digital skills at BFS.
- Open to all students - submit your design by 25 June.
- The winning logo will be used across the school AND wins an exciting prize!

For your chance to win, email your logo to:
Mrs Edwards - c.edwards@bristolfreeschool.org.uk
Mrs Ramanandi - n.ramanandi@bristolfreeschool.org.uk



 Be digital

 Be iconic

 Be creative

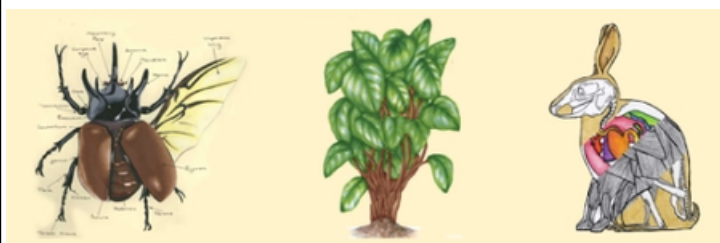
ART COMPETITION

BioArtAttack (2D) 2025 competition has launched!

Combining art with science, students are invited to draw, paint or sketch their favourite endangered species of animal, plant or fungi.

Enter the competition [here](#) and email your entries to Miss Hawes (j.hawes@bristolfreeschool.org.uk) to receive House points.

This competition is run by the Royal Veterinary College and prizes are provided by Defra. Submit your artwork by Thursday 3 July.





What has been happening in...

Music?



MS KENNARD

YEAR 7

Having spent the beginning of the year learning about rhythm and melody, Year 7 students have now moved on to harmony and are exploring how to combine these musical elements to perform a pop song as a band. Some groups are working on keyboard, and some are learning how to play ukulele. We even have the odd drummer and bassist among the year group and there are some very impressive bands taking shape!

Year 8 students have explored a number of musical styles and genres this year ranging from West African Djembe drumming to Baroque canon. Having completed a recent songwriting project they are now moving onto the 12-bar blues.



YEAR 8



YEAR 11



In Year 9, students have worked hard learning how to use music technology. They have composed pieces for film and learned how to use the musical elements to convey feeling to an audience. They are currently completing a unit of work focussed on protest songs and have worked in groups to compose songs that aim to push for social change. A popular theme this year has been climate change and pupils have really embraced the challenge of having to compose everything from scratch – from the lyrics to the melody and harmony. We have been hugely impressed with the work produced and with the maturity with which students have approached the task.



YEAR 11

Year 11 continue to prepare for their GCSE exam. They worked incredibly hard on their coursework and submitted some fantastic compositions and performances last term. We have been so impressed with the effort that they have put in. Good luck for the exam on Monday 16 June!

Your hard work will pay off!

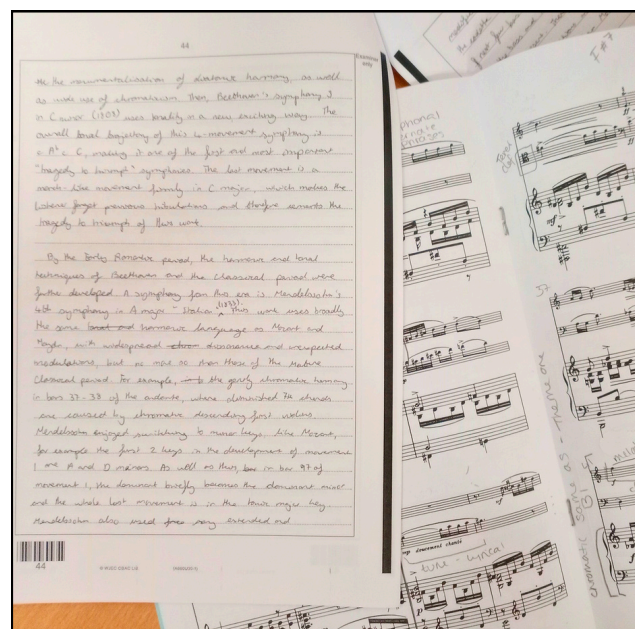
YEAR 10

Year 10 had a busy Term 5 completing a written exam as well as submitting their solo performance and first composition. They are spending Term 6 improving their compositions and continuing to learn about their Set Works: Badinerie and Africa.



YEAR 12

Year 12 have started the term with end of year exams and have all written fantastic essays on the Western Classical Tradition – Development of the Symphony. Great work all round!





MRS KINNERSLEY



MRS DAY

ART

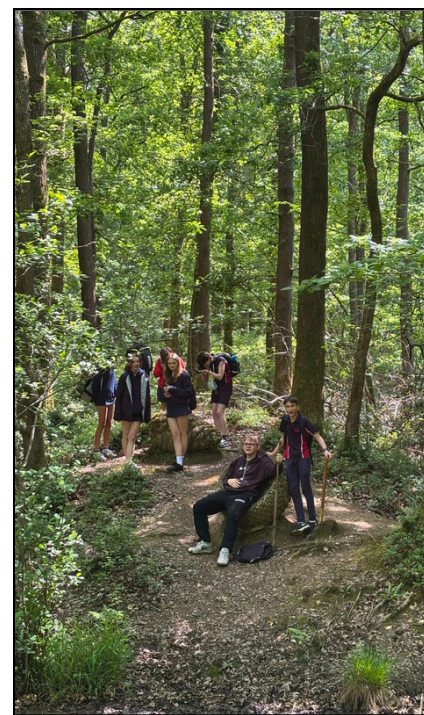
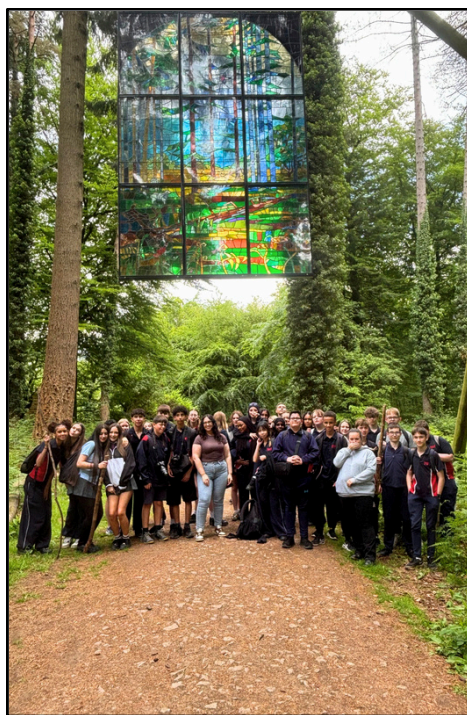
Our Year 10 Art and Photography students embarked on a memorable field trip to the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail, a perfect blend of nature and art. Blessed with ideal weather, the day proved to be an enriching experience for everyone involved.

The students eagerly explored the trail, discovering a diverse array of sculptures integrated into the forest landscape. This interactive experience allowed them to engage with art outside the conventional classroom setting, broadening their perspectives and inspiring their creative projects.



Armed with cameras, the students enthusiastically captured photographs of the sculptures and the stunning natural scenery. These photographs will undoubtedly serve as a valuable resource for their current coursework assignments, allowing them to incorporate real-world experiences into their studies.

The day was not only educational but also a reflection of exemplary behaviour from our students. Their enthusiasm and respect for the environment and art were evident throughout the trip.



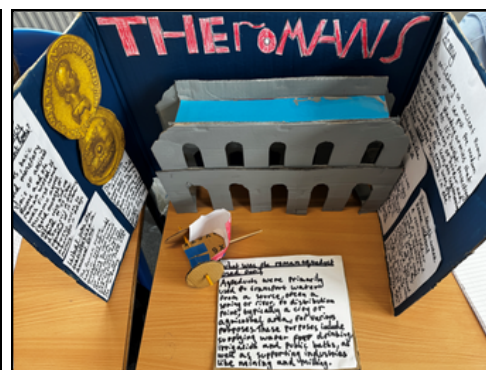
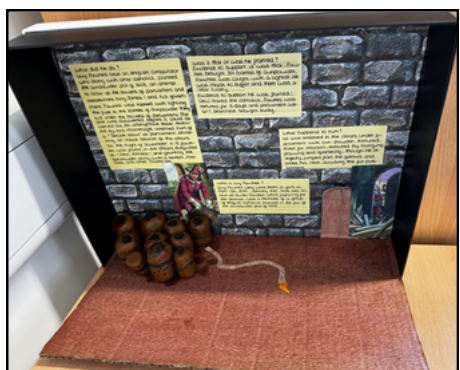
HISTORY



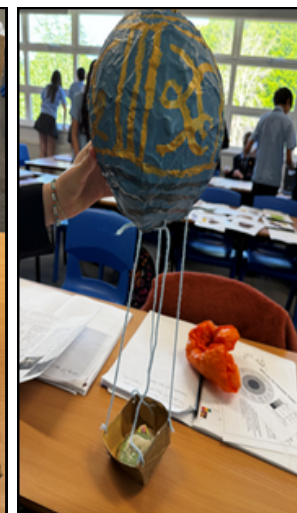
MISS WATKINS

As part of an engaging history project, students were given the opportunity to become researchers, exploring a topic of their choice related to the past. Whether investigating ancient civilizations like the Egyptians and Romans or diving into more recent events such as the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall, students selected subjects that captured their curiosity.

Using a variety of sources, including interviews, documentaries, websites, and literature, they conducted their own independent research. What made the project especially exciting was the freedom students had to present their findings in a format that suited their strengths, from digital presentations, models and artefacts to posters and even video edits.



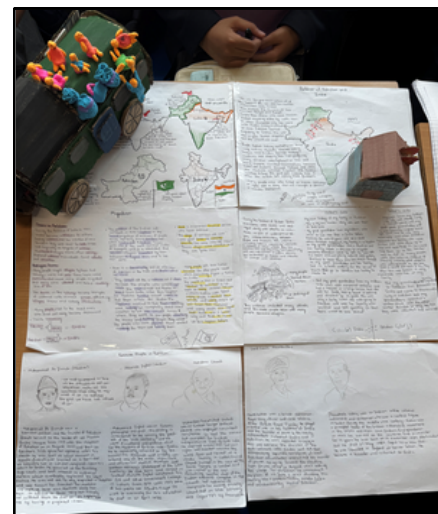
This student-led approach sparked curiosity, encouraged independence, and resulted in a wide array of thoughtful and creative work that brought history to life in personal and meaningful ways. It was then down to Miss Watkins to decide on the winners: Showstopper, Fact Finder, Future Historian, Standout Subject and Visual winner.



Congratulations to:

- 7TG1- Lizzie, Savannah, Amy, Fletcher, Charlie H, Bellq
- 7TG2- Nabeeha, Maddy, Halle, Alys, Henry, Bertie
- 8TG1- Kirstie, Max, Lizzie, Lauren, Tia
- 8TG4- Gabby, Gabe, Elwood, Max G, Will M, Charlie
- 8TG6- Rupert, Matthew, Cerys, Daisy, Cara
- 9TG5- Olivia, Lauren, Daisy, Tess, Francesca, Thomas, Dan W

Well done!



LIBRARY & READING



MS GRIFFITHS



Max Minerva's
Marvellous books & more

On Monday, 10 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 went book shopping at Max Minerva's bookshop on Henleaze Road. With help from the amazing staff in the bookshop, we browsed the shelves looking to choose some fabulous books that will help make an exciting project taking place this term – watch this space for more news.

Huge thanks to Max Minerva's bookshop also for a very generous donation of books to the School Library. These riveting reads will be on our shelves soon.

Thank you



YEARS 7-9

PRIDE MONTH

Our school Library has a fabulous selection of books that we can read to celebrate Pride month. For Years 7 and 8, why not read **Will Grayson, Will Grayson** by John Green and David Levithan? Or Year 9 and 10s could get caught up in Holly Bourne's **It Only Happens in the Movies**. And for Year 12, Alice Walker's **The Color Purple**, Virginia Woolf's **Orlando** or Jeanette Winterson's **Oranges are Not the Only Fruit**. These, and many more titles are available from the School Library.





MRS BALLARD

BFS SPORTS



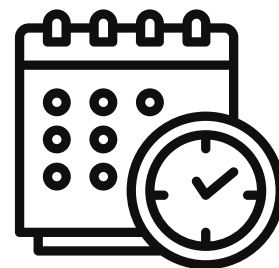
BFS_TeamPE



MS SLATER

NOTICE

It is our final term of extra-curricular sports at BFS for this academic year. Due to the school's enrichment calendar, as well as semi-finals and finals being played by the 7 July, we will be finishing all extra-curricular sport provisions on the Friday 4 July and therefore there will be no training in the last two weeks of term - weeks commencing 7 and 14 July.



VOLUNTEERS

We are already looking forward to the autumn calendar for the academic year 2025-26. With this in mind, we are once again requesting the help of our wonderful families. If you are keen to volunteer your services for cross country, rugby, netball, basketball, trampolining or indoor hockey, we are IN NEED OF YOU!

Our Term 1 and 2 timetable for 2025-26 is as follows (subject to change):

Tuesday - cross country, trampolining, Year 7, 9 and 10 rugby

Wednesday - Year 7 netball, and all years indoor hockey

Thursday - KS3 basketball, Year 8 and 9 netball, and Year 8 and 11 rugby AND all years girls touch into contact rugby

Next year we will continue to enter into local school leagues, as well as any regional and national tournaments, so any help at training is greatly appreciated so we can facilitate the highest standard of sport possible at BFS.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Mrs Ballard. Thank you.

CRICKET

Our U14 cricketers played in Round 1 of the Gloucester Cup this week in a triangular fixture against Kings Oak Academy and Oasis Academy Brislington.

We loss the toss and batted first against Kings Oak Academy. Jess and Elsie opened the batting strongly. BFS scored an impressive 70 runs off of 8 overs with only one out. Kings Oak Academy came into bat and only scored 40 runs including a first wicket from Alice - well done.



We fielded first against Oasis Academy Brislington against a very competent opening batting pair. Amazing catchers, Elsie and Jess, helped reduce the run score to 64. Elsa and Bethan opened the batting for our innings. Elsa was on fire, scoring 5 fours and being forced to retire. It came down to the last ball as we were drawing 64-64. Lucy stepped up and hit a single which meant we took the win.

A fantastic display again from our cricketers - well done girls.

CRICKET



On Tuesday our mixed Year 7 and 8 team played against St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School and came away victorious. The team managed to get the win by 1 single run in the last over, winning 59 runs to 58 after 8 overs each. It was a great team performance from everyone. A special mention to Jacob E with an exceptional batting performance which was the difference between the two sides. Well done boys!

CRICKET

A second game this week for our mixed Year 7 and 8 team saw another close win against Cotham School. This was a brilliant game with every pupil playing their part. After batting first, the boys were finding it challenging to score runs against the well drilled Cotham fielding. However, through adapting and playing in different ways the boys were able to start planning their attempts to run wisely which resulted them building a 46-run lead for Cotham School to chase. When the boys switched to fielding, this was a case of trying to keep Cotham's runs down as much as possible which the boys did and managed to get the win, 46 to 45 runs after 12 overs.



Residential Coaching Camps 2025

Marlborough College, Wiltshire

21 July - 25 July 2025: U14 Boys' Coaching Camp

28 July - 1 August 2025: U15 Girls' Coaching Camp

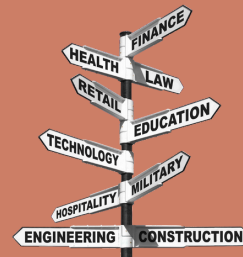


ESFA
ENTERPRISES
COACHING CAMPS



MR BRUNKER

CAREERS



Connect With Us

Connect with us on LinkedIn! @Bristol Free School.
Join in the conversation and help us if you can.

Work Experience Employer Talks Careers Day



EMPLOYER TALK

This week's Employer Talk was on Policing – what it is like to be a police officer and how to become one. We were joined by Sarah Williams and Christian Butler, both former police officers who now work at the University of the West of England teaching on the various UWE policing courses.

Students heard how working in the police is rewarding, fun and well-paid, though not particularly family-friendly because of the demanding shift patterns. There are lots of opportunities within the police force to do a wide range of jobs. One of the benefits of joining is that your career can go in whichever direction you want it to, from working on response (responding to 999 calls) or becoming a mounted police officer, to training as a detective with the CID or working in armed response.

Sarah talked about some of the jobs she did while she was a serving police officer in Bristol, including emergency response, driving blue lights and riot control: she was the first officer to be assaulted – with an egg – during the Bristol police station riot in 2021. Christian told us how his role had been different from Sarah's as he worked in Gloucestershire and so had less of an inner-city role. He spent much of his time tackling drug-related crime, "jumping out of bushes on unsuspecting drug dealers".

Sarah and Christian gave students a lot of helpful information on how they can become a police officer by attending one of the UWE courses, which are taught in purpose-built accommodation with easy transport links. A three-year BSc Professional Policing Degree qualifies students to apply to any police force in the country for a police constable role. There is also the Degree Apprenticeship route, and the two-year Police Constable Entry Programme for those who do not want to do a full degree.

The facilities at UWE include a simulation suite, in which students can reenact the policing of real-life events, including murders, burglaries and domestic abuse. There is also a forensics house and police vehicles, ensuring students get a highly practical, hands-on education to prepare them for life as a police officer. As well as on-campus learning, many students at UWE choose to become volunteer Special Police Constables, who are not paid but have all the other powers of a regular police constable.

Many thanks to Sarah and Christian for taking the time to give us a really insightful talk.

OPPORTUNITIES

Careers in Nature

This [career guide](#) is for people seeking a career in the land-based and conservation sector with a focus on opportunities in the West of England.

Careers in the Intelligence Service

This virtual event on Wednesday 9 July (10am-12pm) is for Year 12/13 students interested in learning more about applying to an intelligence agency and the vetting process. National Cyber Force offers a wide range of careers including cyber security, tech engineering, language specialists, project management, information management and analysis. [Apply here.](#)

Telecoms Virtual Work Experience

Virgin Media O2 are offering a limited number of spaces on a virtual work experience programme (28-31 July) to students aged 16-18. The programme was very popular last year so [apply now](#).

Aviation Support Services

This virtual event on Wednesday 18 June (11am) introduces secondary school and college students to the essential roles that keep airports and aviation operations running smoothly behind the scenes. Students will hear from professionals in airport management, ground crew, baggage handling, and more, discovering the diverse and vital careers that contribute to the aviation industry. [Apply here.](#)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Free Online Workshops for Parents/Carers – Understanding Gaming & Online Safety

We wanted to let you know about some fantastic free online training sessions offered by YGAM to support families in understanding the digital world young people are growing up in. These sessions are designed especially for parents and carers and cover popular games and key online safety topics, including: 🎮 Let's Explore Minecraft 🎮 Let's Explore Fortnite 🎮 Let's Explore Roblox 🎲 Gaming and Gambling Awareness You can find more details and book a session through this link:

👉 <https://ygam.org/training/parents-carers/book-parents-carers/>



Bristol Parenting Groups

- Are you pregnant or a parent of a 0 - 8 year old?
- Would you like to add ideas and skills to your parenting toolbox?
- Would you like to develop more confidence in your parenting?
- Would you like to understand your child better?



Free groups for adults run by Bristol Children's Centres

Your parenting toolbox:

Listening

Play

Nurture

Praise

Empathy

Connection

Scan here to find out more and register your interest!



For more information please call: **07721 311 497**
or email: **pss@bristol.gov.uk**

Once you have registered your interest via:
www.bit.ly/BristolParentingGroups we will be in touch to find the best group option for you.



GOLFING FUN FOR GIRLS

Join us at **THE KENDLESHIRE GOLF CLUB** and have some fun learning to play golf!

Date: Sunday, 22nd June – 1200 – 1430 hours

Cost: £5.00 per session

Where: The Kendleshire Golf Club, Henfield Road, Coalpit Heath, Bristol. BS36 2UY

- ✓ Girls taster sessions
- ✓ Try a new sport, no experience necessary and no equipment needed
- ✓ Perfect for girls aged 7 – 15 years
- ✓ Fun golfing games
- ✓ Make new friends
- ✓ Goody bag

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, GO TO: <https://bit.ly/4cCZwtX>



GLOUCESTERSHIRE GIRLS' GOLF

