

Newsletter



What's In This Issue?

English

Sports

Notice Board

House News

<u>Achievements</u> <u>Community</u>

Subject Spotlight: Art

Welcome to BFS Sixth Form!

Having previously supported students through their Key Stage 4 journey, I feel immensely privileged to continue alongside them as they take the next step in their education. BFS Sixth Form is a vibrant, supportive community where students flourish both academically and personally. Our outcomes have consistently ranked among the strongest in the city - and even the Southwest - while remaining highly inclusive, thanks to some of the lowest GCSE entry requirements.



MR FERNANDES

On Tuesday 4 November, from 5pm to 7.30pm, we will welcome all current Year 11 students, both BFS and external, to our Sixth Form Open Evening. This event is a fantastic opportunity to:

- Hear from me and our Head Students about the vision and values of BFS Sixth Form (6pm 6.30pm in the Sports Hall).
- Meet subject teachers and explore the courses on offer.
- Ask questions and gather information to help make informed decisions about your future.

Free tickets for the event can be booked by Year 11 parents and carers here:

F BFS Sixth Form Open Evening Tickets

This year, we have welcomed 148 students into Year 12, with the majority of BFS students choosing to stay with us. The Sixth Form Team has been impressed by how well students have settled into their Key Stage 5 courses. Students are at the heart of everything we do - and who better to share their experiences of transition than the students themselves.





Jess

My A Level subjects are Biology, English Literature, Psychology, and Core Maths, and I've found the opportunity to explore them in greater depth truly rewarding. Whether it's analysing influential literary texts, uncovering diverse human experiences, studying groundbreaking psychological research with its often-controversial ethics, or discovering the intricate connections between living organisms, each subject offers something compelling. The transition from GCSE to A Level has been far less daunting than I expected - now that I'm here, I wouldn't want to go back! I've also noticed a refreshing shift in the teacher-student dynamic; we're entrusted with more independence, which is both exciting and a little intimidating. Beyond the classroom, joining sixth form societies like debate club has helped me develop collaborative skills. These conversations are building respect and confidence, and I can already see how valuable this experience will be in the future. Overall, staying at BFS has been the right choice for me - having supportive teachers, familiar friends, and a fantastic learning environment makes it a decision I'd highly recommend.





Isabella

My subject choices for sixth form are Sociology, Economics, and Spanish, each selected for different reasons. I chose Spanish because I have a strong interest in languages and hope to live abroad in the future, so being fluent in a second language would be invaluable. Although the jump from GCSE to A Level has been challenging, I am passionate about improving and committed to becoming fluent, and the supportive teachers make learning enjoyable. Economics appealed to me as a practical subject that will be useful for future opportunities and university courses. I've found it engaging so far, as it connects closely with current events and news, and my prior knowledge from GCSE Business has made the transition easier. Finally, I chose Sociology after recommendations from current sixth formers, and it has surprisingly become my favourite subject. The topics are fascinating, offering a deeper understanding of people and society, and the teachers are always helpful, making the content manageable and rewarding.



Eric

My first five weeks in sixth form have been fantastic. I really appreciate the increased freedom, such as being able to access the common room, group study areas, and independent study rooms during any free period or at lunch and break times. I also enjoy the flexibility of wearing my own clothes, which makes the experience more comfortable! When it comes to my subject choices, each one has its own reason. I chose Mathematics because I have always enjoyed it, both at GCSE and earlier, and continue to do so now. Computer Science appealed to me because I find the subject fascinating and having supportive and knowledgeable teachers makes it even better. Economics was not part of my original plan, as I didn't achieve the grades for my first choice, but I'm pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoy it - the content is interesting, and the teachers are extremely helpful.



Awura

The A Level subjects I chose are Chemistry, Biology, Economics, and Core Maths, and I've really enjoyed the depth of learning so far. Chemistry has been particularly fascinating because of its complexity and the way understanding the bigger picture helps make sense of the fundamentals. Biology complements chemistry well, and the overlap between the two has strengthened my foundations in both subjects. I enjoy problem-solving and uncovering the reasons behind how the world works, so studying these sciences has been both challenging and rewarding. Economics and Core Maths have also been engaging, as they provide insight into real-world concepts such as taxes and employment. Learning about current economic issues has broadened my perspective on the corporate world and its impact on society.

Overall, my experience in Sixth Form has been positive - the pace of learning feels right, and I'm excited to continue building on these skills and interests.





I chose to join Bristol Free School as an external student because I wanted a fresh start in a welcoming environment with plenty of opportunities. The school's excellent reputation for strong academic results reassured me that I would have the best chance to succeed in my A Levels. I was also drawn to the wide range of subject choices and extracurricular activities, which I knew would look great on university applications. The freedom and trust given to students, such as being able to manage our own revision, has been really helpful and makes sixth form feel more independent.

Grace The first two weeks felt overwhelming, but I quickly settled in and now feel confident that BFS was the right choice for me. The teachers have been incredibly supportive, understanding the challenge of moving from GCSE to A Level, and the Sixth Form Team has been fantastic, even allowing me to change subjects early on when I wasn't happy with my original choices. I'm now enjoying all my subjects and feel fully settled.

For my A Levels, I chose Biology, Psychology, Politics, and Core Maths. Biology was an easy choice because I loved it at GCSE and wanted a science to support my plan to study psychology at university. It's definitely the hardest subject I take, with lots of content, but it's fascinating and manageable if you stay organised. The teachers are very supportive and always ready to help. Psychology was another natural choice as I studied it at GCSE and really enjoyed it. At A Level, the content is well-paced and engaging, and the lessons are fun - so far, it's my favourite subject. Politics was a later decision, made a week into term, because I wanted variety and have always had an interest in current affairs. I love forming opinions and writing essays, and the content feels practical and relevant to real life. Finally, I chose Core Maths because I enjoyed GCSE Maths but didn't want to take it at A Level. It's practical, straightforward, and unique - something that will stand out on university applications. Plus, it focuses on real-world maths skills that will be useful later in life.

Overall, my experience at BFS has been extremely positive. The supportive teachers, friendly environment, and opportunities for independence have made Sixth Form enjoyable and rewarding. I'd highly recommend BFS to anyone looking for a school that combines academic excellence with a welcoming and flexible approach.



NOTICE BOARD





NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 13 - Friday 17 October

Y13 Geography Trip to Dale Fort

Tuesday 14 October

Y7 West of England Music and Arts Workshop Y9 Spelling Bee Semi-Final, DG01 at 11.50am BEP Youth Talks Final, 4.30pm

Thursday 16 October

Y7 Team Building Day at Clifton College (TG1-3) Y10/11 Theatre Trip (Blood Brothers)

QUICK LINKS

Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

Free Kooth Sessions

Emotionally based school non-attendance and the role of digital mental health support - <u>book</u>.

<u>Kooth Klass for young people</u> – sessions on body image and self-esteem, exam stress, building resilience, 30 min sessions.

WE'RE HIRING

Caretaker

Apply Now

LTH

Friday 10 October is World Mental Health Day. It is a reminder of the importance of good mental health and the need to prioritise and invest in good mental health.

Please <u>watch this video</u> on loneliness made by Bristol City Football Club in Partnership with PAPAYA.

Let's put down our devices and start the conversation!



Illness

Please follow NHS advice from this website to decide if your child is too ill for school: <u>Is my child too ill for school? - NHS</u>

Please remember it is fine to send children to school with minor coughs and colds. For period issues, we have free period products available outside of Student Services and students are able to bring in painkillers to Student Services with a medication form.

If you require the medication form for your child to bring in paracetamol / ibuprofen / prescribed medication to Student Services, please email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.

Please report your child's illness each day that they are absent. This can be done through the free app Studybugs or by calling the 24-hour answer service on 0117 9597200 (option 1). Please do not email absence reports to teachers or main reception as these may not be seen in time for registration.

MENTAL HEALTH

TOURS

AREER§

BEP Youth Talks Final: 16 October, 4.30-8pm, Bristol Grammar School Mac Kinnon Theatre

Next week, two of our students in Year 12 will be presenting in the Bristol-wide Youth talks event. They have been working so hard to perfect their speeches and develop their presentational oracy skills. They will be up against other students from schools in Bristol. The range of topics is fascinating, and the calibre of presentation is really high. You are invited to attend and you can register (for free) by following this link:

BEP Bristol Youth Talks Tickets, Tue, Oct 14, 2025 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite

School Tours for Year 5 and 6 SEND Pupils

We are offering school tours for prospective Year 7 students who are considering joining the school in 2026 or 2027. The tour will take approximately 1 hour, led by current students, and is an opportunity to see the school in action, ask questions, talk to students. The SEND team will then be available to speak to at 3pm. Each ticket is for up to two adults and one Year 5/6 child. <u>Book here.</u>

Booking is essential and tours are only available to:

- Current Year 5 or 6 pupils
- Pupils who have an EHCP or high level SEND need (if you are unsure if this applies to your child, please email SEN@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

Allied Health Professions Careers Day 2025

Step into the shoes of real healthcare professionals and discover the amazing Allied Health Professional careers - each with its own interactive stall where you can ask questions, try hands-on activities, and learn what it's like to work in these vital roles: This in-person event will take place at Learning & Research, Southmead Hospital.

Discover all of these exciting and rewarding careers:

- Art Therapists
- Drama Therapists
- Music Therapists
- Chiropodists/Podiatrists
- Dietitians
- Occupational Therapists
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Orthoptists

- Osteopaths
- Paramedics
- Physiotherapists
- Prosthetists and Orthotists
- Radiographer
- Speech and Language Therapists
- AHP Support Workers and Apprentices

You can either book to see the stalls only, or book stalls plus one of our clinical simulation tickets. This clinical simulation will mimic a patient's journey and care through the different professions, showing you what a huge impact AHPs have. <u>Book here.</u>

LOST PROPERTY

We have already accumulated a huge amount of unnamed lost property, including coats, blazers, shoes and bottles.

Please ensure all items are named so they can be returned to you. Visit Student Services to claim your property.



LUNCH MONEY

Please regularly check the balance of your child's lunch money account via ParentPay to ensure they have sufficient

funds to purchase food.



LUBS

BFS offer a range of fantastic extra-curricular clubs that run at lunchtime and after school.

From Board Games Club on Monday, Stage Combat on Tuesday, Programming Club on Wednesday, Basketball Club on Thursday and Choir on Friday. There is something for everyone!

See our <u>Clubs Booklet</u> for more information.







HOUSE NEWS

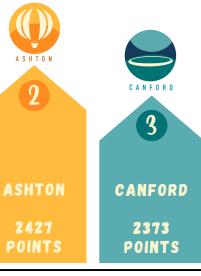




HOUSE POINTS

COMPETITION

DURDHAM 2444 POINTS ASHTON 2427 POINTS





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



Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Oscar VK	Nathan D	Alexander R	Amara P
Year 8	Willoughby S	Oliver W	Abigail T	Evie G, Edie G
Year 9	Esther J	Maya WL	Matthew S, Joseph T	Adam G
Year 10	Sophie L	Daniel D	Ethan H	Dhruvika R
Year 11	Isabelle W	Fiona H	Thomas N	Isabella E
Year 12	Samuel A	Sofie M	Ava M, Milly G, Indigo H	Ethan S
Year 13	Maddison S, Olivia C	Kamran S	Teagan W	Martha H, May L, David B

Girls Hackathon Competition (Y11 - Y13)

We have an exciting opportunity for students to take part in a free, in-person Next Tech Girls Hackathon in partnership with Motability Operations, taking place this October half term in Bristol. All students in Years 11–13 can apply for the competition. No coding experience is needed, and it is a great opportunity for students interested in teamwork, creativity, and real-world careers.

Date: Thursday 30 October, 9.30am - 5pm

Location: Stoke Gifford, Bristol

Free lunch provided and laptops available (or bring your own device). Students need to email Mrs Ramanandi to enrol for the competition at n.ramanandi@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

No coding experience required. You will be working in teams with peers and Motability Operations professionals (Software Engineers, Scrum Masters, Business Analysts) to solve a real business challenge and pitch your ideas. You will explore careers in tech and gain confidence in a supportive environment We are especially keen for students from a variety of backgrounds and subject areas to take part - including those interested in design, public speaking, project management, or social impact.





ACHIEVEMENTS



Year 7 Teambuilding Day at Clifton College

This week TG4 and TG5 headed off to Clifton College for a fun-filled day of teambuilding challenges.



















Subject Spotlight



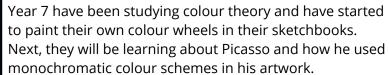




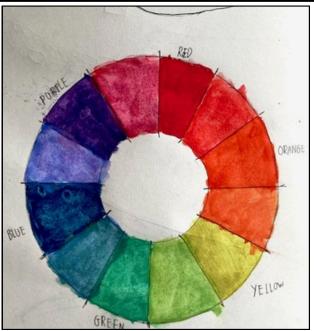
MRS STOKES

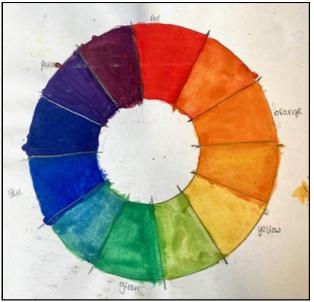














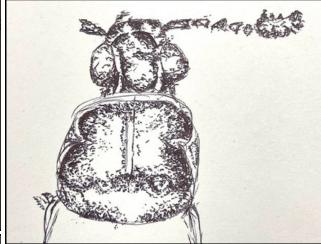


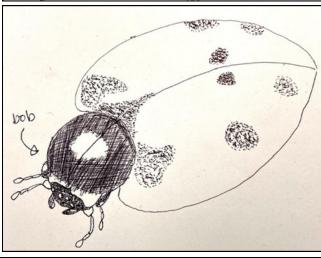






This term, our talented Year 8 students have been diving into the fascinating world of insects through creative drawing techniques. From delicate dragonfly wings to the bold geometry of beetles, students have explored the shape and form of bugs using a variety of materials and mark-making styles.

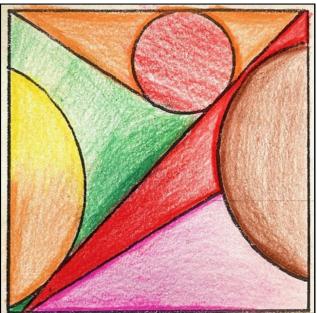




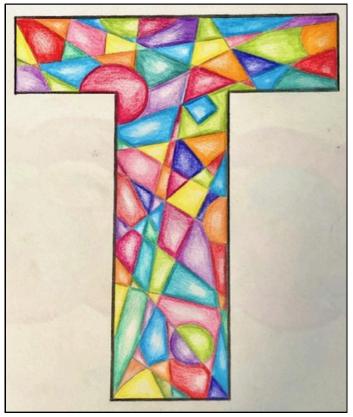


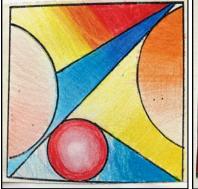
This term, our Year 9 students have been exploring the expressive world of typography. They've been experimenting with colour theory and design principles to bring letters to life in bold and imaginative ways. From playful palettes to striking contrasts, their work showcases a growing understanding of how type can communicate mood and meaning.

Next, students will take their creativity into the third dimension - literally! They will be constructing 3D letterforms inspired by the style of a famous artist, blending sculpture with graphic design to produce eye-catching typographic art.

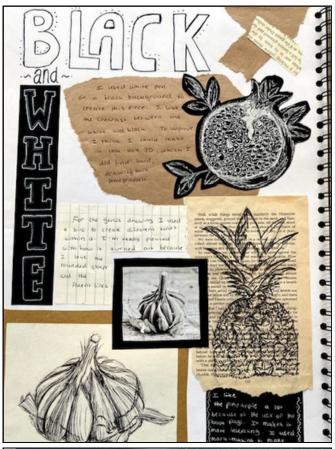


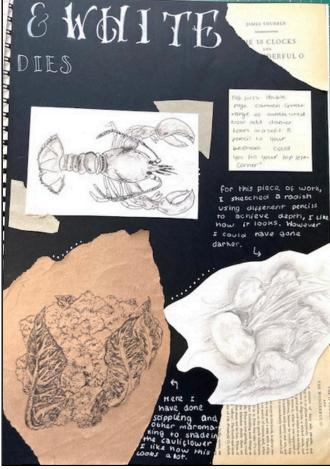


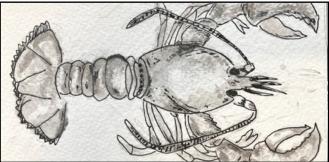






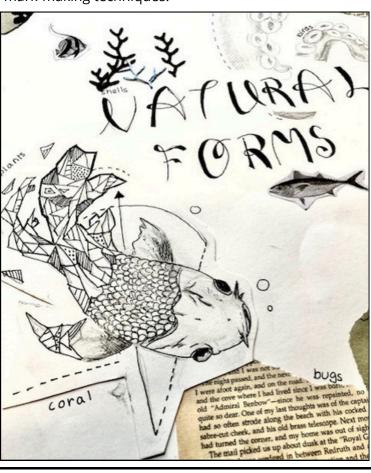








Our Year 10 artists have kicked off their GCSE Art journey with an inspiring exploration of natural forms. This exciting project marks the beginning of their coursework portfolio, laying the foundation for creative growth and personal expression. Students have been developing their observational skills by drawing directly from nature - capturing the intricate details of leaves, shells, flowers, and more using pencils and pens. These studies are helping them understand texture, structure, and organic shapes while building confidence in their mark-making techniques.







We were thrilled to welcome award-winning artist Steve Burden to BFS, where he spent time working with our Year 11 and Year 12 Art students. Having grown up on a council estate in London, Steve brought a powerful perspective to the classroom, challenging conventional ideas of what it means to be an artist today.

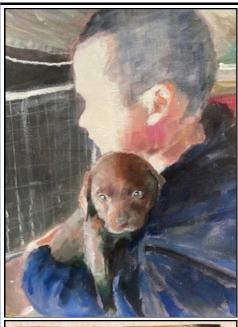
Through hands-on workshops and thought-provoking discussions, Steve encouraged our students to embrace confidence, ambition, and cultural literacy skills that are not only vital in the art room but also in life beyond school. His visit was a vibrant reminder that creativity knows no boundaries, and that every student's voice and vision matters.







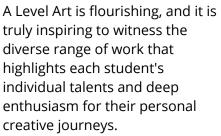




























ENGLISH







MS SAYER

This term, every Key Stage 3 student has participated in the second annual BFS House Spelling Bee. English teachers were particularly impressed by students' effort, even when asked to spell words like 'connoisseur'! Well done everyone for taking part!

Year 7 Semi-Finals

Monday saw the first semi-final and it was Year 7 up first. The semi-finalists arrived ready and eager to show off their skills. It was clear that the Level 2 words were far too easy, so Miss Sayer quickly advanced to Level 3.



Semi-finalists:

7YM - Leo H

7YS - Wilf M

7YH - Oscar V K

7YC - Hugo S

7XS - Jacob W

7XL - Jack S

7XW - Amara P

7XI - Carles G

After a tough battle, Oscar V K emerged victorious! Congratulations!

Year 8 Semi-Finals

Then on Tuesday, it was the turn of Year 8. For some of these spelling aficionados, it was their second trip to the semi-final, having taken part in Year 7. There was some very impressive spelling on show, with tricky words such as 'melancholy' and 'palatial'.

Semi-finalists:

8YH - Barney P

8YG - Andreea M

8YC - Oli A

8YT - Ada McN

8XL - Gracie T

8XT - Stan R

8XB - Lily-Mae P

8XW - Maddie P

In the end, it was Maddie who took the crown - congratulations!



Book Review Challenge

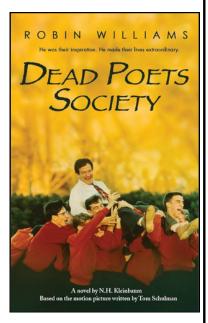
What? A book review of a recent book you enjoyed.How long? 200 - 250 words.How to submit? Email or hand it in to Miss McMurdo, DG08.



Dead Poets Society by N. H Kleinbaum Review by Emily, Year 10

Dead Poet's Society - a gut wrenching and soul swaying story. N.H Kleinbaum's novel is the perfect accompaniment to the 1989 film directed by Peter Weird and Tom Schulman. Although the book strays slightly from the original, it still makes for a life-changing read.

Set in 1959 with the backdrop of Welton Academy, a rigid boys' boarding school nestled in the hills of Vermont, we meet a miscellaneous group of seven mischievous and loveable teenage boys, dancing on top of radio towers and falling in love. Further shenanigans bring forward concerningly relatable and complex characters and also from the largely inspirational and humorous side of the story. Everything changes when the boys meet their new English teacher Mr Keating, a past graduate from the halls of Welton. He teaches the boys about the evils of conformity, to reject the status quo and



that English is something not to scrutinise, but to feel deeply and let drip from your tongue like honey. Despite having similar attitude, it might be the only book I've ever been enthused to annotate.

We see a crack in blazers and ties of high held students through to the innocent and not-so-innocent humans underneath, which makes adopting one of their personalities and inevitable task. No matter who you are or what you know about yourself, you're guaranteed to find it in one of the dead poets. This really adds to the general and inexplicable sense of warmth and comfort (like a blanket that never leaves your feet cold) provided by the book because it feels like the story has been written just for you, whenever you come back to it- and trust me, you will.

Being commonly consumed around ages 12 to 14, Dead Poets Society is a book that leaves handprints of the heart. It clings on and doesn't tend to let go. This is why I honestly believe young people should be introduced to the franchise. Forcing you to understand, appreciate and savour art and individuality is just one reason why this book is so important for developing minds.

Dead Poets Society has also instilled an incredible infatuation for poetry and literature inside me that just can't be found amongst the pages of any other novel. There are so many passages that have deeply affected me in the best way possible. Monologues and poems from each character build up over 166 pages to create this awing amalgamation of how to live, not just merely exist, that can make anyone rethink everything.

It's overly whimsical, but I feel my calling as a dead poet, destined to giggle and whisper under the stars, a distant dream whispered through classroom windows, that I don't think many can understand.

However, the whimsy must come to a stop eventually, the ending, whilst sad, is desperately needed, to demonstrate the whole point of the cost of not living life to the fullest and that self-expression is a vital part of the human experience. There are endless tears to spend on its pages. And, despite the heart achingly tragic ending, Dead Poets Society is a breathtakingly beautiful outlook on creativity and meaningful rebellion that will break you down and build you back up a better person.

Importantly, Dead Poets Society has formed a home for so many so-called weird kids amongst yellowed anthologies and snow coated hills. I urge anyone to become similarly in love with this book. Be transported to the cave beyond the stream. So carpe diem - coming from one of those weird kids.

BFS SPORTS





Our Year 7 rugby team visited Oasis Academy Brightstowe this week. We made a really positive start breaking their line, Reuben N sprinting through to score our first try. This positivity continued and led to Reuben scoring 3 more tries in the first half. We were leading 15-5 at half time.

In the second half, Oasis came out strong and brought the score to a draw with 2 minutes left on the clock. Ruben B took his chance and sprinted to the try line to take the win in the last seconds of the game! What a performance from the whole team - they have really built on their awareness and knowledge from training and the improvements as a team are fantastic to see. Shout out to Reuben N who scored 5 out of the 6 tries! Final score 30-25. Well done boys.







Year 9 and Year 10 Netball teams triumphed in two great wins against Blaise this week.

Year 9 played with 6 players and came back from being two goals down at the end of the first quarter. Winning 10-5 by the end. Great resilience and teamwork! Player of the match was Aurelia.

Year 10 took to the court with enthusiasm and confidence. They led from the start and finished the game winning 16-8. Player of the match was Bethan. Well done!

UPCOMING FIXTURES				
Wednesday 15 October	Year 7 Boys Rugby vs St Bede's Catholic College & Redland Green School	St Bede's Catholic College		
Wednesday 15 October	Year 7, 8 & 9 Netball vs Cotham School	Cotham School		
Thursday 16 October	Sixth Form Netball vs QEH	BFS		

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



NHS

11-19

years old?

We help young people with all kinds of things like ...

Message us for confidential advice and support and to chat with a School Nurse.



Chat Health

Mental Health Bullying Alcohol Self Harm Healthy Eating Relationships Drugs Smoking

<u>nd a message to:</u>

The service is open on Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm.









Service provide University Hospitals Bristol and Weston

Allied Health Professions Careers day

Saturday 18th Oct 2025 10:00am - 4pm @ Learning and Research, Southmead

Hospital, BS10 5NB (what3words: /// every.island.racks)

Aimed at 14 to 19 year olds, the day will include:

talks & information on career routes including, support workers, apprenticeships, degree programmes, patient simulations a whole lot more!



The Allied Health Professions are:

Art/Drama/Music Therapists Speech & Language Therapists Diagnostic & Therapeutic Radiographers **Operating Department Practitioners** Occupational Therapists Chiropodists/Podiatrists **Prosthetists & Orthotists**

Click Here

Physiotherapists Paramedics Osteopaths Orthoptists **Dietitians**

Scan the QR code to book your ticket

Bristol Ladies Union Youth FC

Football players wanted

We are welcoming players, including keepers, to strengthen our two squads at U16/U15 level for this season.



Get Ready for Support Work in Schools

Where: WEA York Court. 7 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH

When: 20.10.25 - 07.05.26 How Long: 62 Sessions Time: 12:30pm - 3:00pm Reference: P00000166

Are you considering a support role in a school or college - such as a teaching assistant, dinner lady, or administrator? This course provides you with a solid work in an educational setting. On this course you will study: Award in mental health awareness, Award in support work in schools and colleges, Digital skills get ready for learning, Support work in schools and Food hygiene.



Simply visit thewea.info/ findmycourse or call 01132 002194

