

Newsletter



**Welcome
Back!**

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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to everyone as we begin Term 5. I hope you all enjoyed a restful Easter break, with time to relax, recharge and connect with family and friends. It has been lovely to see students returning to school refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

This promises to be a busy and important term for many of our students. Year 8 and Year 10 will be completing their end-of-year assessments, providing valuable opportunities to reflect on progress and identify next steps. Meanwhile, Year 11 students are preparing for their GCSE summer examination series, as are Year 13 students as they enter the final stages of their A Level courses. We wish all of our examination students the very best of luck and encourage them to continue working hard, looking after their wellbeing, and making use of the support available to them.

Alongside these academic milestones, there is an exciting range of wider opportunities taking place across the school. Year 12 students will be attending the UCAS Discovery Exhibition Trip as they begin to explore future pathways. Our Year 7 and 8 students will be taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge, while students in Years 9, 10 and 12 will be heading out on Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expeditions. In addition, students involved in our Sports Leaders programme will be supporting Sports Day at Westbury-on-Trym C of E Academy, proudly representing our school in the local community.

With so much happening, Term 5 is shaping up to be an energetic and rewarding one. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a positive and successful term ahead.

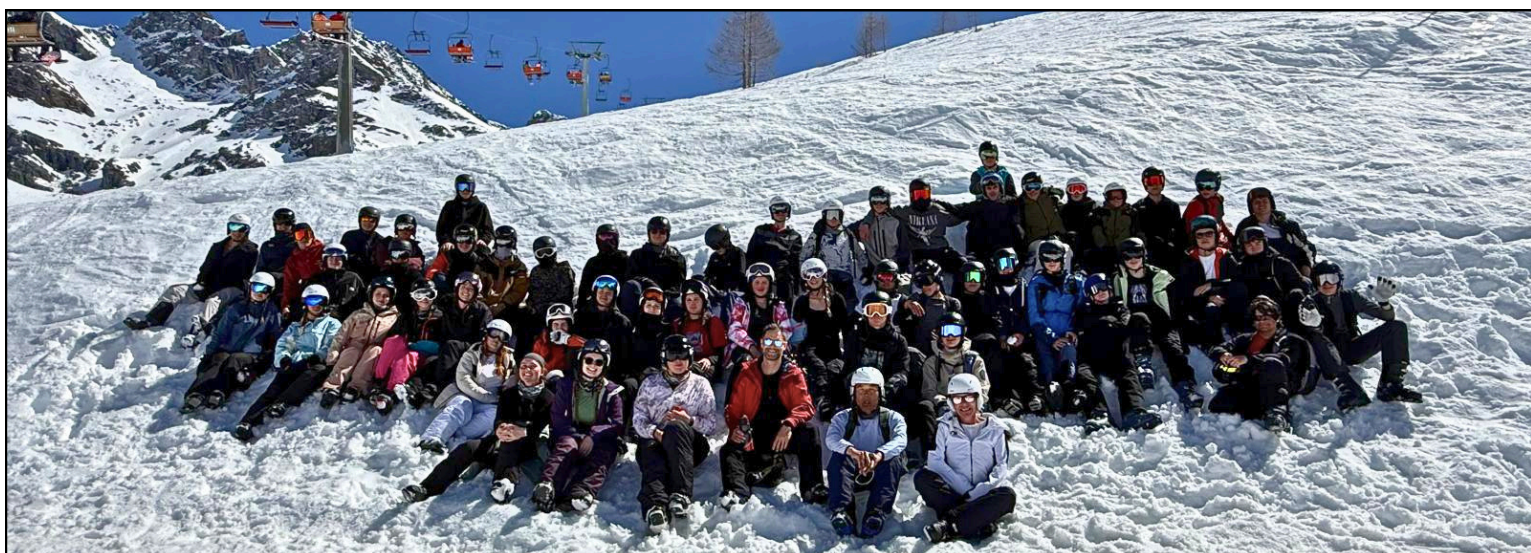
Warm regards,

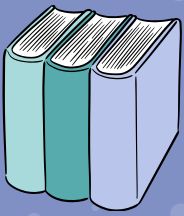
Mrs S King
Headteacher



MRS KING

A NOTE FROM MRS KING





NOTICE BOARD

BFS_Bristol BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

- Clubs begin
- Auditions for the Summer Showcase

Monday 27 April

Y10 Exams (until Tuesday 28 April)

Tuesday 28 April

Y9 Subsea Challenge

Y12 UCAS Discovery Exhibition Trip

Wednesday 29 April

Y7/8 Junior Maths Challenge

Friday 1 May

House Fridays: Fitness Challenge

QUICK LINKS



[Lunch Menu](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Key Dates](#)

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Summer SHOWCASE

The annual BFS Music and Drama Summer Showcase will be on Monday 29 June.

If you would like to perform this year, now is the time to start preparing your act! Auditions will be taking place next week. Acts will need to be performance-ready at the auditions.

WE'RE HIRING

Assistant Headteacher (SENDCo)

Teacher of Maths

Administration Manager

Receptionist/Administrator

[Apply Now](#)

ATTENDANCE

Penalty Notices and Prosecution

At BFS, we work with Bristol City Council to fine parents/carers of students with unauthorised absences.

Unauthorised absences are issued for:

- Arrival after the register closes at 9am without good reason
- Unauthorised holidays and other events not authorised by the Headteacher
- Absences where no reason has been supplied by the parent/carer
- Absences where medical evidence has been requested by the school and not received

Penalty notice fines are normally for ten unauthorised sessions (each day being two sessions) of absence in a ten-week period. Penalty notices can also be issued to parents who repeatedly take absence below this threshold. Prosecutions can also be issued if more appropriate than a penalty fine.

At BFS, we prefer to take a supportive approach to attendance before taking these legal measures, so please contact the Attendance Office if you are concerned by your child's attendance.

STAFF NEWS

At the end of Term 4 we said goodbye to three teachers embarking on their maternity leave and welcomed their cover teachers.

Goodbye



Mrs Humphries



Miss Goodbody



Mrs Robbins

Welcome



Dr Holland



Miss Molton



Mr Hutchinson

TERM 5 KEY DATES

Friday 3 - Friday 17 April	Easter Holidays - School closed to all students
Monday 20 April	First Day of Term 5
Tuesday 21 - Tuesday 28 April	Year 10 Exams
Tuesday 21 - Wednesday 6 May	GCSE & A Level MFL Oral Exams
Wednesday 22 - Thursday 23 April	DofE Bronze Practice Expedition Group 1
Wednesday 22 - Friday 24 April	A Level Photography Exam
Thursday 23 - Friday 24 April	GCSE Photography Exam
Friday 24 - Saturday 25 April	DofE Bronze Practice Expedition Group 2
Tuesday 28 April	Y12 UCAS Discovery Exhibition Event
Tuesday 28 - Thursday 30 April	A Level Art Exam
Wednesday 29 April	Y7 & Y8 Junior Maths Challenge
Wednesday 29 - Thursday 30 April	GCSE Art Exam
Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday - School closed to all students
Tuesday 5 - Friday 15 May	Year 8 Exams
Tuesday 5 May - Wednesday 17 June	Y11 Summer Exam Series
Tuesday 5 May - Wednesday 17 June	Y13 Summer Exam Series
Thursday 7 - Saturday 9 May	DofE Silver Practice Expedition
Tuesday 12 May	Y9 Vaccinations - MenACWY/DtP
Wednesday 13 - Thursday 14 May	DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition Group 1
Friday 15 - Saturday 16 May	DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition Group 2
Tuesday 19 & Thursday 21 May	Sports Leaders at W-o-T Primary School Sports Day
Friday 22 May	Last Day of Term 5
Monday 25 - Friday 29 May	Half Term - School closed to all students



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Durdham!

Top House Point Earners

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Ethan B	Freya B, Corey B	Jack S	Roisin L-W
Year 8	Ellie-May R, Dexter C-S	Halle S	Nicolas C, Sophia R, Elena C-J	Frederick Z, Aleena S
Year 9	Rudi B	Naomi H	Harry B	Jack R
	TOP HOUSE POINT EARNER ACROSS YEAR GROUP			
Year 12	Harry G, Benjamin R			
Year 13	Kamran S, Sophie W, Martha H			

HOUSE FRIDAYS



HOUSE FRIDAYS



On the last day of term before the Easter break, we organised an Easter Egg Hunt around school - lots of students got involved and after some frantic searching all the eggs were found! Even the extra tricky golden eggs which meant even bigger prizes. We also had a Guess the Number of Eggs in the Jar competition with two winners. The student winner was Adiela in Y9 who guessed 153 and the staff winner was Mr Nouas with 155...the number of eggs was 154 - so each just one away!

This term for House Fridays we will be doing: a Fitness Challenge, a Rubik's Cube Race, a Table Tennis Tournament, and a Bake Sale on the last day of term.

SKI TRIP 2026

During the Easter break the BFS Ski Trip touched down for a second year in a row in the beautiful Walser village of Alagna Valsesia in Piedmont, Italy. Despite a turbulent ferry crossing during which our sea legs (or ski legs) were well and truly tested, our journey proved smoother than last year (without satnav issues and an unintended detour through Switzerland). We arrived in resort ahead of schedule and were greeted with beautiful sunshine meaning the very first activity of the trip, beyond a ski fitting, was sunbathing and soaking up the sun.



Despite our arrival late in season and the unusually warm weather, our resort sat at the foot of the Monte Rosa Massif – the second highest mountain in the Alps. This provided us with ample access to snow on the high-altitude runs up to 3,000m above sea level. Alagna is renowned for being a freeride paradise with challenging and steep terrain. Our talented top group of BFS skiers effortlessly took to the trickier black runs like pros, accompanied by Ms Conole and Mr Lam – a dynamic duo on the ski slopes. We loved the top group's commitment to carving beautiful snowy lines all week and more importantly their enthusiasm in encouraging less-skilled skiers' progress. A special mention to James T, who showed patience in trying to help Ms Jones improve her dodgy parallel skiing!

Initially, our top intermediate group favoured speed over skill resulting in a few minor calamities. One incident involved Ethan F, Myles F and Ewan W ending upside down in the snow with their skis in the air. Nonetheless, our upper-intermediate skiers quickly levelled up and shone. Although this group had only a couple of weeks' prior experience, they quickly

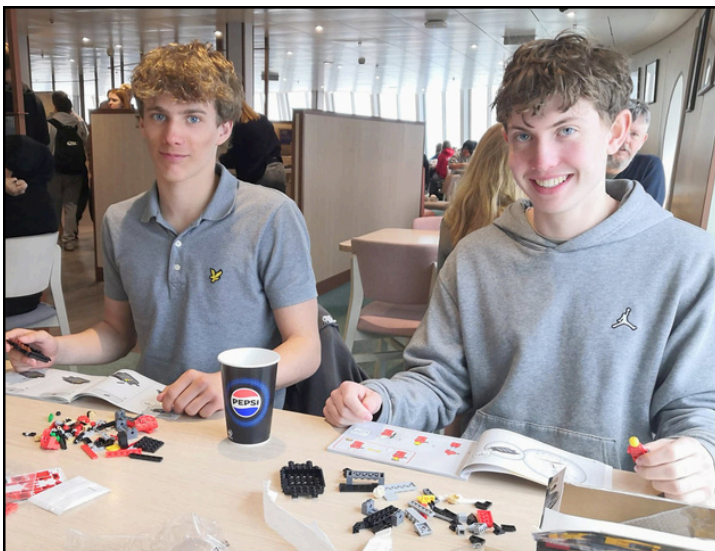


got back into the swing of things and demonstrated some skilful parallel skiing, eagerly working their way up to tackling some difficult jumps and black runs. Mr Cousins accompanied this group and swiftly stole the show. Despite humbly broadcasting on the outward journey (in amongst his dad jokes on the coach mic) that his last skiing experience was before Ms Conole was born, he effortlessly mastered the slopes again within just a few minutes. It wasn't all smooth sailing for him though. Ms Jones received a rather frantic phone call from the Italian instructors one morning with the important message that the "red professor is missing!!!". Sounding like a Cluedo character, it took some time to work out exactly who the red professor was. It transpired that Mr Cousins, and his red ski jacket, had taken a wrong turn on the slopes, got lost and separated from the rest of the group and their instructor. Thankfully eventually reunited, Mr Cousins will now be known as the Red Professor forever more.





Meanwhile, our lower intermediate group, accompanied by Ms Bennett and Ms Jones, made rapid progress up to the more advanced slopes. Initially replicating a game of dodgems with multiple collisions on the first day, this group quickly refined their technique and progressed onto some challenging red runs and jumps by the end of the week. A massive well done to Zac and Lenny who started on shakier legs as relative newbies yet finished the week on challenging red and black runs demonstrating exceptional skill and finesse. Our beginner group also made rapid progress, starting out on the nursery slope initially with Mr Winner and Ms Clorley. Due to their ambition and determination, these students made leaps (literally) and bounds throughout the week, transitioning from a snow plough or 'pizza' to mastering a parallel ski on some blue runs. It was wonderful to see this group's confidence grow over the course of the week.



This is easily one of the most entertaining and funny groups we have ever taken away on a school trip. A special mention should be given to:

Year 10s getting ready for bed in their full-blown ski gear at 11pm on the night of our arrival (see below), ready and raring to go. We appreciate the commitment guys!



A (retrospectively) questionable combination of seven **Year 12** boys in one room – this eventually became known among staff as the 'Room of Doom' due to their late-night antics and being unwakeable during wake-up calls for breakfast.

Austin P for his dedication in fashioning a (unused) sick-bucket into a hat and wearing it for the entire 25-hour journey home from Alagna to Bristol, only removing it on the ferry and service stop (see below).



The **whole group** for their eagerness for an impromptu snowball fight, despite teachers being prime targets!

A further highlight of the week was Mr Cousins' impeccably planned quiz night, where students demonstrated their general knowledge, music knowledge and knowledge of their teachers. Which teacher used to be a church bell ringer? Which teacher served Drake in a bar as a student? The quiz night was a real hit all round!



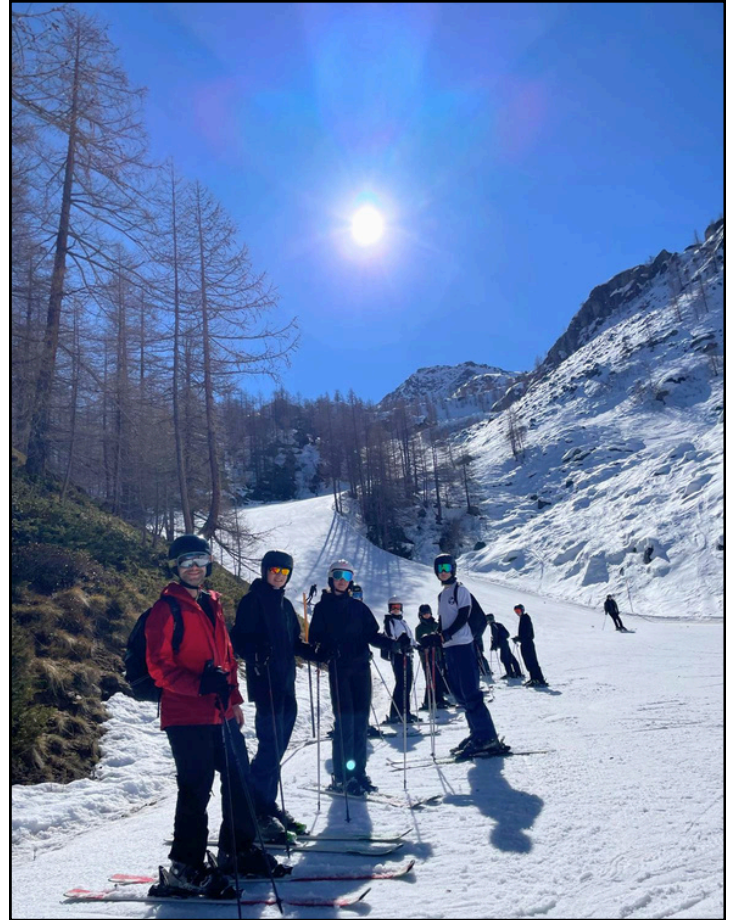
A massive shout out to our 'Cinderella' student (she knows who she is) who found it tricky to find ski boots – none would fit quite right. She powered through and it was amazing to see her resilience and patience in finding the right fit, and her exceptional skill as an advanced skier once she found the correctly fitting boots.

Another highlight of the trip was the valiant actions of Stan H in heroically rescuing a Year 10 student who had made the ill-judged decision to walk up a ski slope in skis and became 'stranded' and buried in deep snow powder.



This is one of the most successful trips we have run at BFS. We are so proud of our students – they play a massive part in the trip's success. Several people throughout our stay, including our resort rep, hotel owners and residents complimented our students' conduct. Our students really demonstrated the values of our school in looking out for each other and challenging themselves to make the most of this experience.

Thank you to the staff who helped to run this trip. Without staff support, we would not be able to offer the students this experience. The time you have given out of your Easter holiday to support the running of the trip is so appreciated. A massive thank you to Ms Bennett as our designated first aider and for looking after our students' medical needs with such competence and diligence. You did an incredible job.



Finally, a massive thank you to Mrs Meech, Mrs Eynon and all of the trips team for the wonderful job you do in ensuring trips run smoothly and that students have access to these incredible experiences.

The 2026 trip has been so enjoyable to run and, as always, a highlight of the trip is getting to know students outside of the school environment and seeing their enthusiasm and confidence grow as the week progressed.

BFS skiers of 2026, you have made this year's ski trip a really tough act to follow – what an experience! We hope that you have fond memories of the trip for many years to come.

Grazie!



MS JONES



MS CONOLE



MR LAM



MR COUSINS



MS BENNETT



MR WINNER



MISS CLORLEY

“ The 2026 ski trip was undoubtedly the most enjoyable BFS trip I have ever been on! Alagna Valsesia was picturesque and we had perfect weather, with brilliant pistes across the resort. The combination of excitement on the slopes and in the village made this an unforgettable holiday. The entire group of staff and students was so fun, with an amazing time had by all for almost the entire trip (maybe excluding the coach journey!).

Ben R, Y12”



“ The ski trip is by far the best trip I have had here at BFS. The hotel was lovely and the skiing was perfect. We had amazing views throughout the week and managed to see the Matterhorn one day with my group. The teachers were all in great spirits and I found one of my highlights was Mr Cousins' quiz - we all loved it! I'm sure we will all remember this trip for a very long time. Thank you!

Maddie H, Y12”

“ Going on the ski trip for the second time was an amazing experience and opportunity. The ski teachers were superb and the amount of time we could ski each day was amazing allowing us to improve and enjoy skiing at the same time. The dinners at the hotel were exemplary with different delicious Italian food each day, with of course pizza to finish the week off. The quiz night and the awards were hilarious and entertaining.

Mark B, Y12”



“ The ski trip is by far the best trip I have had here at BFS. The hotel was lovely and the skiing was perfect. We had amazing views throughout the week and managed to see the Matterhorn one day with my group. The teachers were all in great spirits and I found one of my highlights was Mr Cousins' quiz - he spent a lot of time making it and we all loved it! I'm sure we will all remember this for a very long time and I hope this continues for many years to come!

Noah T, Y10”

“ This trip, being my first skiing trip, it was amazing. As a beginner I found I had so much support from the teachers and the instructors, with encouragement and ways I can adapt my technique and improve. The slopes were amazing and were very suitable for my level of experience. The town was beautiful and the amount of free time we got was perfect as it was enough to explore the town, rest and hang out with friends. All the teachers on the trip were so nice, supportive on the slopes, and fun to hang out with during free time. The hotel was really nice, the rooms were a perfect size, and all the staff were super friendly. Overall, this was an amazing trip, and I hope to go again in year 12.

Alba J-G, Y10”



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



MR MILSTEAD

Over 150 Year 9 students set out on their Bronze Award practice expeditions this week. We hope they all enjoyed the experience, and we look forward to hearing all about it on their return!



YEAR 9

READING



MR HARRIS



MS SAYER

Y7 AND Y8 READING CHALLENGE

Well done to everyone who has been regularly quizzing on Accelerated Reader. At BFS, we know just how important reading is for you as humans and as students, so we are always looking for new ways to encourage you to pick up a book!

Starting this term, we are launching two new competitions for Year 7 and Year 8.

Individual Reading Challenge

Every time you score 80% or more on a quiz, let your English teacher know and they will give you a raffle ticket. At the end of each term, winners will be drawn at random (one from Year 7 and one from Year 8) and they will receive a £10 book voucher as well as a coveted 'skip the queue' pass for the next term!

Class Reading Challenge

Each time you take a quiz, Accelerated Reader logs how many words you have read. At the end of each term, we will work out the average number of words read per student in each English class. The class with the highest average will all win cake cards!

So now there is even more reason to get reading!

YEAR 7 & 8



SCIENCE



MR WINNER



DR MARTIN

The Royal Society of Chemistry's annual Chemistry Olympiad is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Budding chemists entering this competition develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively, and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. This year, we received our best ever results with 4 bronze, 5 silver and 5 gold certificates awarded. A gold certificate is only awarded to the top 8.5% of students who entered - an amazing achievement. Well done to everyone who took part.



YEAR 13

BECOME A BAT AMBASSADOR

This free course run by [Bat Conservation International](#) will teach you everything you need to know to become a certified Bat Ambassador. By becoming a Bat Ambassador, you will be joining a nationwide community of people helping Bat Conservation International spread the word about these fascinating creatures, the threats they face, and what we can do to help them. All certified Bat Ambassadors will receive House Points. Sign up [here](#) and let Ms Hawes know when you have completed the course!



BATS

BFS SPORTS

 BFS_TeamPE



MRS BALLARD

GOLF

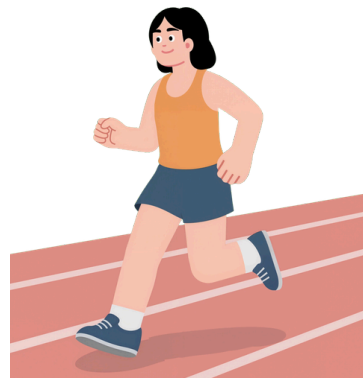
On Monday 20 April a team of golfers represented BFS in the Avon Schools Golf Championship at Filton Golf Course. In the sunny but blustery conditions they each plotted their way around the course. In the gross results Rosie came 5th in the girls competition and 21st overall, closely followed by Archie who came in 25th overall out of a large field of 123 golfers. In the nett results Andrew came in 21st place.

Well done to all the golfers who represented BFS, their behaviour was exemplary.



SPORTS CLUBS TIMETABLES

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Year 8 Rounders	Year 7 Rounders	All Years Athletics	
	Year 9 Rounders	Year 8-9 Dance	All Years Tennis	
	Year 10 Rounders	All Years Cricket		



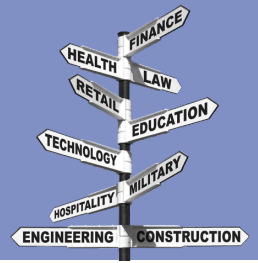
UPCOMING FIXTURES

Tuesday 5 May	English Schools Athletics	Yate
Thursday 7 May	English Schools Athletics	Yate
Friday 8 May	Girls Dynamo's Cricket Festival	Bedminster Cricket Club
Wednesday 13 May	Y7,8,9,10 Rounders vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe	Oasis Academy Brightstowe
Tuesday 19 May	Y7&8 Athletics	Kellaway Avenue
Wednesday 20 May	Y7,8,9,10 Rounders vs Blaise High School	Blaise High School
Thursday 21 May	Y7,8,9,10 Rounders vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College



MRS SMITH

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



BEHIND THE SCENES OF MILITARY PROCUREMENT

On Friday morning we welcomed Jo Llewellyn, Project Manager at the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Jo explained that producing and procuring military equipment is about far more than vehicles and aircraft – it is about people, animals and long-term planning. Jo went on to share fascinating insight into a career spent working for the MoD, procuring equipment for the Army, Navy and RAF.

Highlights included work on three army vehicles produced for service in Afghanistan and collaborating closely with shipbuilders to bring the aircraft carrier, *HMS Prince of Wales*, into service. The largest ship in the Royal Navy fleet, it carries up to 40 jets and helicopters, and supports around 1,600 personnel. On board are facilities you might not expect, including a cinema, five gyms, a church, four restaurants (producing up to 960 meals an hour), a hospital and dentist. Helicopters even have folding wings so more can be stored on deck. At the heart of the ship is the secure “Cobra Suite”, a hidden two-room command area.



Procurement also covers frontline Army equipment such as heavily armed vehicles, with robotic vehicles sometimes driving ahead to check routes are safe. These vehicles weigh over 2 tonnes due to the protective armour and equipment that they carry but needed to be able to drive through areas of thick mud. Aircraft, including the Chinook and Typhoon, are not only used for military operations but also humanitarian and support roles – a Chinook can carry two Land Rovers and up to 55 people.

A key theme throughout the work is designing equipment with real users in mind, including animals. The MoD also procures military working dogs, sourcing them as puppies, training them at specialist dog schools and even preparing them to jump from helicopters. One innovative solution involved creating dog kennels mounted on springs inside vehicles to protect them from rough terrain.

A Career in Project Management

Jo has worked for the MoD for many years as a Project Manager, travelling the world to work with international partners on defence equipment. Day-to-day work includes managing teams and solving problems when things go wrong. Most Project Managers on Jo’s team will be assessing ideas, costs, lifespan and long-term support needs, and working closely with engineers. This often involves hands-on testing such as driving vehicles over concrete and mud, tipping them, and seeing how they perform in real conditions. From initial idea it can take up to 5 years to develop, design and build specialist equipment such as the Boxer and Mastiff trucks. Their career journey shows it is never too late to change direction. Originally trained as a midwife, Jo changed careers in her mid-30s, joining the MoD as a Project Manager on the Chinook helicopter team. One route into this career is through the Project Manager (Integrated Degree) Level 6 apprenticeship, which allows people to work across different areas of the MoD while gaining a recognised qualification and valuable on-the-job experience.

We thank Jo for an insightful and interesting talk all about military procurement and project management.

EMPLOYERS TALKS

COMING UP...

1 May: Blood Sciences
15 May: Rail Engineering
22 May: Veterinary Research

5 June: Pharmacy
12 June: Prison & Probation Service
19 June: National Grid

Neurodiversity
Without a Diagnosis
St Werburgh's
Community Centre, BS2
Wednesday 1st April
10AM-11:30AM



Dad's Parent
Carer Session
Online
Wednesday 22nd April
7PM-8:30PM



Peer Support
Greenway Centre
Southmead, BS10
Thursday 23rd April
9:15AM-10:30AM

EBSA Support
Greenway Centre
Southmead, BS10
Thursday 23rd April
11AM-12:30PM

Peer Support

Online
Thursday 23rd April
7PM-8PM



Scan here for details on
these sessions and more



<https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp>

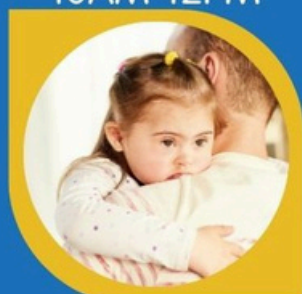
Home To School
Travel - Post 16
Online
Tuesday 28th April
10AM-11:30AM



Peer Support
Fishponds Old Library
Fishponds, BS16
Thursday 30th April
9AM-11AM



Understanding Support
for Your Child's Needs
St Anne's House
Brislington, BS4
Thursday 30th April
10AM-12PM



Peer Support
Inns Court
Knowle, BS4
Thursday 30th April
10:30AM-12:30PM

