

Newsletter



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Happy 100th Birthday Sir David Attenborough

How did we get here? It hardly feels real — and I know many of you are thinking the same.

Year 11, you truly are an exceptional year group. Every single day you demonstrate self-motivation, resilience and kindness, and you live our core values in a way that makes us incredibly proud. You should hold your heads high. The journey towards these exams has not always been easy, and at times it has been demanding and overwhelming — but you kept going. You showed grit, determination and courage, even when things felt tough.



MS LUDWELL



As your Head of Year, it has been an absolute privilege to watch you grow from nervous Year 7s into the confident, thoughtful young people you are today. The progress you have made academically and as individuals is remarkable, and you should never underestimate just how far you have come.

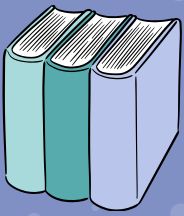
Over the exam period, there will be moments that feel uncomfortable. You may feel pressure, nerves, butterflies in your stomach, or even the urge to hide away for a while. Please remember: These feelings are not signs of weakness. They exist because you care. Think back to the TED Talk “Stress Is Your Friend”, your body and mind are preparing you, not holding you back. If you can change the narrative around nervousness and see it as readiness, it can become one of your greatest strengths.

I don't say this lightly, your tutors and I will miss you more than you know. Not seeing you each morning will leave a real gap, because you have been such a joy to talk to, to laugh with, and to support. You have left a lasting impression on us all.

As you move into this final stage, please remember that you are not alone. We are so proud of you already, and we are firmly in your corner. If you need support, reassurance, or just someone to talk to, please reach out to your tutor or to me — any time.

We believe in you. Always.

Ms Ludwell and the Year 11 Tutor Team



NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 11 May

Y8 End of Year Exams (until Friday 15 May)
Y11 Summer Exams (until Wednesday 17 June)
Y13 Summer Exams (until Friday 19 June)

Tuesday 12 May

Y9 Vaccinations (MenACWY/DtP)
Y10 Green Futures Programme - Work Experience Day

Wednesday 13 May

Y9 Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition - Group 2 (returning Thursday 14 May)

Thursday 14 May

Y8 Flying Start Grand Final

Friday 15 May

Y9 Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition - Group 1 (returning Saturday 16 May)

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Key Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

WE'RE HIRING

Headteacher
Head of Art & Photography
Teaching Assistant

Apply Now

VACCINATIONS

The Sirona Immunisation Team will be in school on Tuesday to administer the MenACWY/DtP vaccination to Year 9 students.

If you gave consent for your child to have the vaccinations, they will receive this on Tuesday. Please ensure that they eat breakfast and wear a short-sleeved school shirt. If your child does not have a short sleeved-school shirt, they may wear either a school PE T-shirt or a T-shirt under their school shirt.

Thank you.

CATERING

Please see the letter from our catering partner, Impact Food Group, at the end of the newsletter

A consultation is now open regarding new food standards. You are invited to review the proposals and take part in the consultation to ensure your views are represented

ATTENDANCE

UNAUTHORISED HOLIDAYS - MISS SCHOOL, MISS OUT!

Please do not book term-time holidays. The Department for Education does not allow schools to authorise term-time holidays. Even one or two missed days can be highly disruptive to your child's education - remember that each day they will be missing out on 6 lessons of critical learning and vital information in tutor time. They will also be missing out on social times with their friends and all the extra clubs, trips and events in school.

Parents who take unauthorised holidays can expect to receive penalty notice fines from Bristol City Council. Currently the costs of penalty notices are:

- £80 per parent/carer per child for the first offence in a rolling three-year period, rising to £160 if not paid within 28 days.
- £160 per parent/carer per child for the second offence in a rolling three-year period.
- If a third offence occurs in a rolling three-year period, alternative action such as prosecution will result. Prosecution can result in fines of up to £2500 and/or 3 months imprisonment, as well as a criminal record.



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	Henry S	Sam W-B, Wilf M, Philip D	Jack S	Roisin L-W
Year 8	Ellie-May R	Oliver W	Hattie J	Taylen S
Year 9	Jessica G	Oliver P, Seth M	Daisy C	Rory S, Edward R, Kushi K
Year 10	Isaac L	Abigail B, Emily R	Frank C	Ava W, Evie M
Year 11	Alexa M	Luke W, Laura W-C	Nia W	Gabriel W, Nathan P
TOP HOUSE POINT EARNERS ACROSS YEAR GROUP				
Year 12	Jessica M, Mia T			



HOUSE FRIDAYS



HOUSE FRIDAYS

Last week's House Fridays Fitness Challenges saw some fantastic efforts and impressive results across the board:

- Most sit-ups in a minute: 41 - William B (Y7 - Ashton)
- Longest wall-sit: 5:30 - Jessica I & Emma W (Y7 - Canford)
- Most press-ups: 60 - Hannah B (Y8 - Blaise)
- Longest plank: 4:40 - Noah T (Y7 - Canford)

It was great to see such strong participation, with students supporting and encouraging each other throughout. And a shoutout to Mr Harris and Mr Howard for getting involved, recording 39 and 72 press-ups respectively!



This week's challenge is a Rubik's Cube Race - who can complete the cube in the fastest time? Will anyone manage to beat my personal best of three days (with the help of a YouTube video...)? And finally, following the success of the Valentine's Bake Sale in Term 3, we're excited to announce another one on the last day of term (22nd May) - this time with a Eurovision theme! More details will be shared next week, so keep an eye out.



RELIGION PHILOSOPHY



MEET THE DEPARTMENT



Mrs Stuttard
Head of Department

How did you end up becoming Religion & Philosophy teacher? My favourite subject at A Level was Religious Studies although I should say, this was not true in my earlier school years. I ended up doing GCSE RS because it was a way of gaining an additional GCSE, not a passion (at that time) for the subject! However, in spite of the reason behind my subject choice it quickly became a main interest and passion of mine. My A Level studies, and my teachers, encouraged me to study Theology and Religious Studies at Bristol University. Whilst there, we were given a talk by a Religious Studies teacher and my initial thoughts of joining the police were replaced by a desire to teach.

This change of heart was probably in conjunction with quite an alarming night shift whilst on work experience in Year 12 which made me have second thoughts about a career in the police! I completed my PGCE in Religious Education at Bristol University having very much taken to Bristol life.

After qualification, my teaching career led me to roles in South Gloucestershire, Somerset, North Somerset and in most recent years, the City of Bristol. Early in my career I was keen to continue academic study and completed a Master's in Education. It was really challenging balancing full-time teaching with studying but I completed it in 2002.

Over the years, I ventured for a time into other roles - the first at the University of Bristol working on the Children of the 90s (ALSPAC) project liaising with schools attended by study families. Later I ran my own business as a dog walker. I became well known around North Somerset with my "Katie's Walkies" van!

Where did you go to university? For my bachelor's degree in Theology and Religious Studies I went to Bristol University. I also completed my Master's in Education there and my PGCE - Bristol through and through!

Who is your favourite theologian or philosopher? I am not sure that I can give a favourite theologian or philosopher, but if pushed, I'd probably say William James since he writes extensively on religious experience - one of my favourite topics to teach. I like how the Religious Studies A Level challenges us to analyse a wide variety of views and how it often raises more questions than it answers.

Do you have a favourite religion to teach about? I like different aspects of all the religions I teach. I think I would say my favourite bit is looking at how faith impacts on a person's life. So, regardless of which faith we are studying, I like trying to show how the beliefs we learn about make a difference to people's daily lives. I think emphasising this makes the subject more relevant and engaging - it is not just about what people believe and value, but how they live that out.



Mr Stegges
Teacher of Religion &
Philosophy

How did you end up becoming Religion & Philosophy teacher? My favourite subject at school, particularly during my A Levels, was Religious Studies. This ultimately led me to study Philosophy at university. So, religion and philosophy have always interested me keenly. However, rather unrelatedly, I did then spend the next ten years working largely in the NHS as a Medical Laboratory Assistant and later an Accredited Clinical Coder. In the end though, my deep yearning for philosophy won out, and here I am!

Where did you go to university? For my bachelor's degree in Philosophy I went to Birmingham University. I then went on to get a Master's in Political Thought at Exeter University.

Who is your favourite theologian or philosopher? I'd encourage all students to never tie themselves to any one philosopher or school of thought. You should always stay critical and be intellectually agile. Having said that, I have always come back to the Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Zizek as a source of inspiration. He's strange, if not totally incomprehensible at times, combining the ideas of Hegel, Marx, and Lacan. So, while I wouldn't claim to fully grasp his thoughts, his eclectic ideas, littered with humour and pop culture references, have kept me on my toes (intellectually) and forced me to think in unconventional ways. I think we all need to be shaken out of our intellectual comfort zones from time to time, and I try to embed that kind of ethos into my teaching.

Do you have a favourite religion to teach about? I find Buddhism quite fascinating. It's trying to do something quite unusual and specific among the other major world religions. Most other religions start by trying to establish a grand story about prophecy or creation, involving supreme supernatural forces, whereas Buddhism starts from a common human experience and basically just tries to resolve it. That being: suffering. It tries to explain where it comes from (attachment/desire) and the process by which you can overcome it.

I find it interesting to teach because it immediately clashes with students' preconceived ideas about what a religion is, and in this way helps students understand that "religion" is a much more complex, nuanced, and, frankly, messy concept. This is helpful in RP because, ultimately, we want students to appreciate that the subject is about the billions of particular worldviews that exist in the world, and indeed, the one in their own heads.

YEAR 10

RP SHORT COURSE

Wed 20 May

A reminder that Year 10 students will be sitting their actual GCSE Short Course exam on Wednesday 20 May in the afternoon. Do encourage your son/daughter to refer to Bromcom for topic information and useful links. These are also available in the letter sent to parents/carers via ParentPay. Students should also feel that they can see their RP teacher in person or email them if they have questions. We wish them well in their exam. - Mrs Stuttard and Mr Steggle

YEAR 12

YEAR 12 - PHILOSOPHY 4 CHILDREN

Recently, Year 12 engaged in a mind-expanding session of Philosophy 4 Children (P4C). These sessions involve the students sitting in a circle, discussing philosophical ideas, and hopefully resolving conundrums that have dumfounded the greatest philosophers for millennia! They do this democratically, as the questions are decided on by the students themselves, and they also get to hold Socrates (pictured) so that they might channel his greatness.



In this session, they first discussed the 'Ship of Theseus' which, in summary, is a thought experiment that encourages us to interrogate the way we understand identity and continuity. The Year 12s went on to have two extensive conversations about the ethics of capital punishment and its use by, first, the state and, second, by vigilantes. I hasten to add that all the while we were graced by the presence and profound insights of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and St Thomas Aquinas throughout the session, owing to Abi, Jess, Maddie, and Polly's formidable disguising abilities, as you can see pictured. In future P4Cs we hope to facilitate more surprise visits by long-deceased greats.



ENGLISH



MISS MCMURDO

BOOK REVIEW

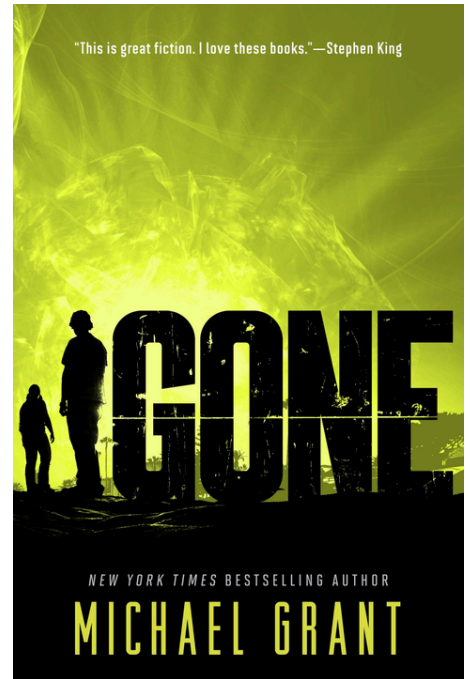
Gone by Michael Grant
Review by Jack S, Year 7

This is a gripping thriller by author Michael Grant.

It is about a boy called Sam Temple, the protagonist, and his friends in a twisted reality where people over the age of 15 cease to exist - the characters call it 'poofing'.

Sam and his friends try to survive as gangs begin to form and people start to question their trust in one another, eventually some people begin to develop special powers and people are forced, strong or weak, to choose a side.

I rate this book 10/10 as I found I started to read for pleasure and got back into reading. It can be violent, slightly dark and containing mature themes, so it is aimed at readers aged 12+.



SCIENCE

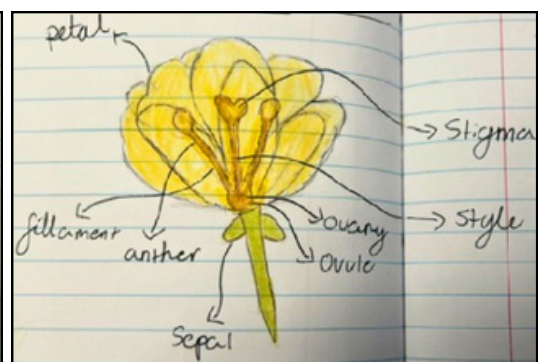
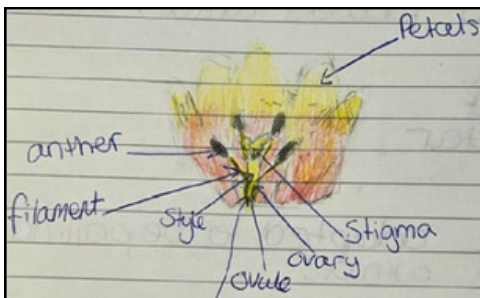
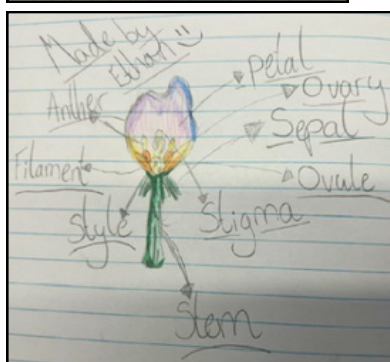
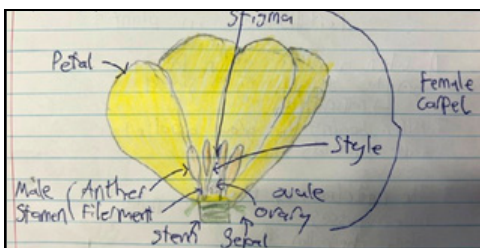
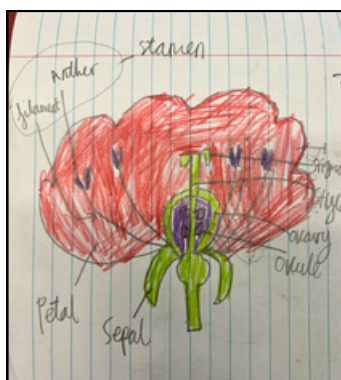
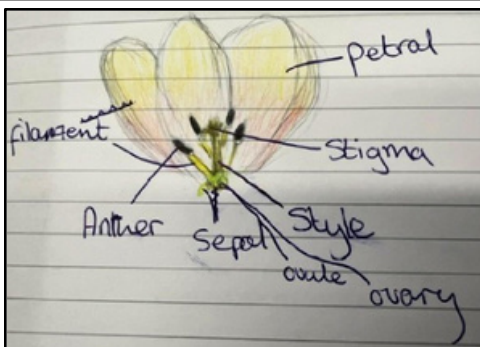


MR WINNER

YEAR 7

Year 7 students recently took part in an engaging science lesson where they carried out a flower dissection. Using careful observation and practical skills, students explored the different parts of a flower, including the petals, stamens, and carpel, gaining a deeper

understanding of plant reproduction. Students were tasked with drawing and labelling a diagram of their dissected flower. The activity sparked curiosity and enthusiasm, with many students enjoying the hands-on experience and developing their scientific knowledge in a fun and interactive way.



BFS SPORTS

 BFS_TeamPE



MRS BALLARD

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		

Well done to Harry S (Y8), Harrison H (Y9) and William R (Y9) who played for Clifton Rugby at the Isle of Wight Festival at the weekend. Their team made it to the final and finished second out of 9 teams. Well done boys!



RUGBY

Congratulations to Isaac S, Y13, who made his debut for the Clifton 2nd XV rugby team last weekend. His standout performance, including an impressive hat-trick, won Isaac Man of the Match. Well done!



RUGBY

Last week, three of our amazing Year 11s, Esme, Orla and Fiona, played in the U16 National Cup at Sixways Stadium in Worcester. An incredible achievement for these students to reach a National Final - we are very proud of them.



RUGBY



ATHLETICS

On Tuesday, Year 7-10 boys attended Yate Outdoor Sports Complex for the English Schools Athletics Competition. They had a great day in the sun supporting each other and watching some outstanding athletics!

A shout out goes to Prince and Rory who placed 1st and 2nd respectively in their heats for 100m and 200m, as well as Zachary and Jacob for their race in the hurdles, an event neither had tried before, but they were amazing! Well done to all the students in attendance for trying their hardest and being amazing in a strong pool.



MARATHON

Congratulations to our very own Miss Conole who ran the Milton Keynes Marathon on Monday.

You are an inspiration!



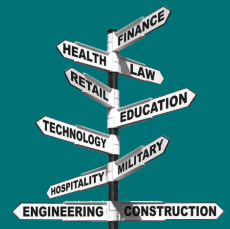
UPCOMING FIXTURES

Wednesday 13 May	Y7-10 Rounders vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe	Oasis Academy Brightstowe
Wednesday 13 May	Y7&8 Cricket vs Oasis Academy Brislington	Westbury Fields, St Monica's
Tuesday 19 May	Y7&8 Athletics	Kellaway Avenue
Wednesday 20 May	Y7-10 Rounders vs Blaise High School	Blaise High School
Thursday 21 May	Y7-10 Rounders vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College
Thursday 21 May	Y9&10 Cricket vs Blaise High School	Blaise High School



MRS SMITH

CAREERS



EMPLOYERS TALKS

BOWMER AND KIRKLAND

On Friday morning we welcomed Kayleigh Ball, social value manager, for Bowmer and Kirkland. Kayleigh introduced Bowmer and Kirkland which was founded in 1923 by a carpenter and a bricklayer, this major construction company has grown from modest beginnings into the largest privately owned construction company in the UK. Still proudly family-owned by the Kirkland family, the company now operates not only across the UK but also in the United States and overseas, delivering high-profile projects that shape communities and skylines.

What Do They Do?

Construction projects follow a clear but complex process: A client identifies a need, architects turn the idea into detailed designs, contractors bid for the project, setting out cost, timeline, project team and construction approach, and then finally the successful contractor delivers the project exactly to the agreed scope, managing budget, programme and quality. The successful contractor coordinates all trades on site, working closely with and employing local businesses to bring the project to life.

Landmark Projects

Bowmer and Kirkland has been successful in bidding for and managing with some of the UK's most recognisable developments, including Warner Bros. Studios, St George's Park (the England national football training centre), and Albert Road & Temple Reach (Bristol) - student accommodation supporting the University of Bristol's Temple Meads campus. These projects highlight the company's experience across education, leisure, sports, and large-scale urban developments.

Careers in Construction

Kayleigh explained that construction offers far more than hands-on trade roles. There are a wide range of technical and professional careers, including:

- **Project Manager:** £34,000–£87,000. Oversees the entire build from start to finish.
- **Quantity Surveyor (QS):** £33,000–£90,000. Manages costs, budgets, and financial control.
- **Design Manager:** £37,000–£84,000. Coordinates designs between architects and construction teams.
- **Planner:** £34,000–£83,000. Manages programme and logistics, ensuring everything arrives on time.
- **Health & Safety Manager and Environment & Sustainability roles**

Routes Into the Industry

There is no single path into construction. Options include work placements, apprenticeships, T Levels, part-time study, full-time college courses, and university degrees. Many people start on-site or as apprentices and work their way up – including current Regional Directors within the business. Bowmer and Kirkland offer the following as degree apprenticeships: Quantity Surveying, Site Management, Estimating, Design, Building Management and Surveying. The degree apprenticeship with Bowmer and Kirkland offers a starting salary of £22,500, with 6-monthly salary and progress reviews. Individuals are eligible for a bonus scheme after 12 months as well as company benefits such as private medical and pensions. They also gain real project experience alongside professional training. They also offer work placements as part of 'Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction' T Level qualification working with Weston College and City of Bristol College. When applying for a degree apprenticeship or work placement, Bowmer and Kirkland do not expect candidates to know everything on day one, they are also looking for strong communication and teamwork, organisation, planning, and problem-solving skills.

Construction is a modern, innovative, and people-focused industry offering long-term careers, excellent earning potential, and the chance to leave a real mark on the built environment. From designing and managing projects to sustainability, technology, and leadership, there's a place for every talent in construction.

COMING UP...

15 May: Rail Engineering
22 May: Veterinary Research

5 June: Pharmacy
12 June: Prison & Probation Service

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENGLAND **V** WALES

U18 SCHOOLBOYS &
U15 SCHOOLGIRLS
23/05/2026



HOSTED AT:
CIRENCESTER
TOWN FC



TICKET COST:
£12 PER ADULT
£8 PER CHILD

CLICK THE LINK IN OUR
STORY TO BUY TICKETS!



inspiresport **KAIZEN** **oneills** SPORTSHOTELS.COM **ESFA**
There is always the Next Generation Leading Clubs

£2
Entry

Henleaze Schools' May Fair

Saturday 16th May 2026

2 - 5 pm

- SAMBA BAND • MAYPOLE DANCING •
- PUPPET SHOWS • FAIRGROUND RIDES •
- LICENCED BAR • CIRCUS PERFORMERS •
- FACE PAINTS & HENNA • FOOD & DRINK •
- BRISTOL BEARS & SHINE LED GAMES •
- LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES •

Henleaze & Claremont Schools welcome everyone to this community event.

Sponsored by:

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School Food Standards: A Positive Step Forward

Dear schools, parents and carers,

We welcome the government's intent to improve **School Food Standards**: getting more nutritious food into children and making sure school meals continue to play a positive role in health, wellbeing and the school day.

What This Means for Schools and Families

The **consultation is now open** and we strongly encourage schools, parents and carers to read the proposals and have their say. This is particularly important given the additional compliance expectations being introduced for schools, including greater oversight of School Food Standards, a lead governor for school food in every school, increased visibility of menus and food policy, and the need to consider how packed lunch policies support a consistent approach to healthier choices across the school day. While most changes are expected from September 2027, the consultation is an important opportunity to help shape what comes next. You can **[read more and respond to the consultation here](#)**. Alternatively, if there are points you would like us to raise as part of the wider sector response, please do get in touch.

How Impact Food Group Is Preparing

We are confident in the progress already made across our menus and in the direction we have been taking for some time. Through our **Impact+** approach, we focus on creating mealtime experiences that support energy, concentration and wellbeing, while still being appealing and relevant to students.

Many of the principles now being discussed are already reflected in our offer. Across our menus, we already provide fruit every day as an alternative to more traditional desserts, have introduced more plant-rich dishes, and reduced sugar, fat and salt across our range. We continue to prioritise baked rather than deep-fried items, with dishes prepared without fat where possible, while strengthening nutritional balance through more fibre and healthier everyday choices.

We have also made our menus more transparent, improving the way dishes are named and described to better showcase ingredients and support understanding of more nutritious, plant-forward options, such as lentils in bolognese and chickpeas in curries. This helps schools, pupils and families make more confident choices around allergens and dietary needs, while also building familiarity with healthier ingredients and encouraging openness to trying new dishes. Our teams are also being trained to support schools confidently through the changes ahead.



Making the Changes Work in Practice

At the same time, any changes must **protect the popularity of school meals** as well as their nutritional quality. If the offer becomes less appealing to children, there is a real risk that more pupils will move towards packed lunches and other alternatives, which often contain more salty, sugary snacks and offer less positive nutrition overall.

We also believe that any **recommended changes must be properly funded**. Higher expectations can deliver real benefits, but only if schools and caterers are given the support needed to implement them successfully and sustainably.

As part of this wider conversation, we are actively involved through [The School Food People](#), which works closely with the Department for Education on school food matters. As Vice Chair of The School Food People, I am keen to ensure that schools' views are reflected as these proposals develop, and that the final framework is both practical and workable for school caterers and schools alike.

We remain committed to working closely with our school partners to deliver food that is nutritious, appealing and trusted by pupils, supporting both healthier choices and a strong, well-used meal service.

If you would like to discuss any of this information further, [please get in touch](#).

Best wishes,

Bryan Lygate



Chief Operating Officer
Impact Food Group

Innovate

Cucina

Hutchison

dolce

chapter
one