TERM 1 AT RGS 2026

It's been a busy and purposeful start to the academic year. Year 12 students have settled in with enthusiasm, and Year 13 are making strides towards their next steps. Here's a look at what's been happening across the term:

STARTING STRONG: INDUCTION AND STUDY SUPPORT

We began the year with two brilliantly busy induction days, welcoming both year groups back to Post 16 and introducing everyone to the wellbeing and study support available. Mrs Macadie (Lead Academic Mentor) and her team have been helping students build strong independent study habits. Lunchtime workshops are now running for every Year 12 tutor group, and Year 12s have also been exploring revision and stress-management strategies in Personal Development. Any student can refer themselves to the academic mentors for help and guidance at any time.

Parents and carers joined us for the "Meet the Tutor" evening, where we discussed how we support students and answered questions about next steps. The main and tutor presentations, and an FAQ document from the evening are available by clicking on their names. Several parents asked about high-quality MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) – free or low-cost online courses from universities and organisations worldwide that are ideal for extending learning or exploring new subjects. A good starting point is Futurelearn, which hosts a wide range of short courses for 16+ learners.

FUTURES - NEXT STEPS

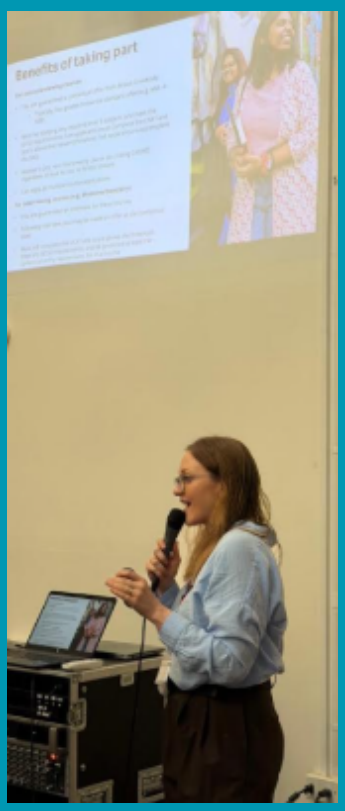
Early UCAS applications for Oxford, Cambridge and medicine-related courses have now been submitted – a huge well done to all the students involved for their hard work, and a big thank you to Ms Haine and the tutor team for their support and guidance. At this time of year we also make a plea to parents and carers: if you could help with mock interviews for Oxford/Cambridge courses or for medicine and dentistry, please click here to let us know.

Year 13 students have also heard from our independent careers coach, Sam Kennaby, who held an assembly outlining the support she can offer as students make important decisions about their futures. Careers opportunities for all students are updated weekly and can be found here. Nearly 30 students have gained a place on the University of Bristol's Access to Bristol scheme. Beginning on Wednesday afternoons, it's a great opportunity to experience university-style learning and explore future pathways. Applications were also open for the university's Year 13 outreach programmes, Discover Bristol, Next Step and Bristol Scholars. Year 13 students and parents interested in Degree Apprenticeships were invited to a free online talk in September.

Looking ahead, we will meet Year 11 students in mid-November to discuss subject choices. Year 11 RGS students who meet our entry requirements are guaranteed a place in Post 16, and information about admissions, courses and applications is available on our website.

UCAS

University of BRISTOL



ASSEMBLIES, TALKS AND ENRICHMENT

We were visited by a range of external speakers this term, including the University of Bristol who gave information about a range of opportunities for local students, Avon Fire and Rescue who gave an engaging talk about road safety, and Brook - who gave advice about healthy relationships and accessing helth services. In addition we were visited in October by Dr Lara Lalemi who gave an inspiring talk to Year 12 students about her journey through the world of education and academia, with a powerful message about self awareness and believing in yourself.

Our enrichment programme is also now underway, with a huge number of students signed up to activities ranging from the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, book groups and community volunteering to debating, British Sign Language, a current affairs discussion group and a new student-led basketball club. Post 16 students are also providing excellent support in lower school lessons across the learning community.

This month we have been celebrating Black history in our tutor programme and raising awareness of events across the city for Black History Month 2026. We have a range of events throughout the year which celebrate the diversity of our community - students who are interested in helping out can contact the student council.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

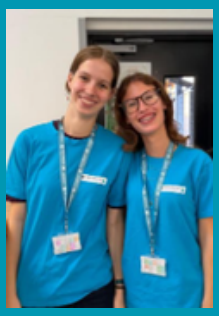
Huge congratulations to Sean in Year 13, who has been taking part in the Royal Air Squadron's "Spirit of Aviation" scheme and recently completed his first solo flight!

Congratulations also to three Year 13 students who have been accepted onto the Financial Times Student Advocate scheme – a prestigious opportunity to connect with students across the world – and to Claudia (Year 12) and Randa (Year 13), who have been selected for the "Shape my City" programme, which nurtures talent in design, construction and the built environment. We wish them all the best.

TRIPS, VISITS AND WIDER OPPORTUNITIES

Students took part in a range of acitivities to support their subject learning this term. Sociology students visiting Shepton Mallet prison to gain an understanding of the history of crime and punishment in the UK, while Music Technology students visited local audio production company Fluid Mastering to see the skills and techniques they have been learning being put into practice. Year 12 students of RE and philisophy also visited Redmaid's School to take part in a student conference, gaining an understanding of the Christian perspective on a range of moral issues. The RE team will be hosting an evening meeting of the local philosophy society early next term to continue our collaboration with other local schools.

A level Maths students took part in the UKMT senior maths challenge, and performed brilliantly with well over half of the those taking part receiving recognition (19 bronze, 19 silver and 7 gold). 9 students now move on to the next round (the "kangaroo") - we wish them all the best.



GIVING BACK AND GETTING INVOLVED

The Post 16 community came together for a wonderful Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Atrium, with staff and students enjoying amazing cakes and conversation while raising money for an excellent cause. Anyone wishing to support Macmillan's work can donate here.

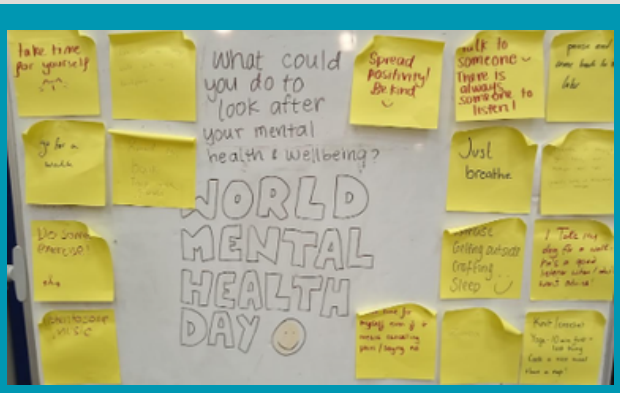
Students have also stepped up as ambassadors at Open Evenings across our learning communities. Particular thanks go to Lilah and Melika for speaking so well to prospective students and parents, and to James in Year 13 for his excellent speech about life at North Bristol Post 16 Centre at Cotham Learning Community's Open Evening. A big thank you to everyone who represented Post 16 with such enthusiasm and professionalism.

WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

Supporting student wellbeing is a key focus at Post 16. Our in-house counsellor, Freya, is available for anyone who would like to talk – students can speak to their tutor, a member of the Post 16 team, or use the QR codes displayed around the Centre to make contact. Regular wellbeing updates and tips are shared directly with students through their school email accounts.

We marked World Mental Health Day with staff and students wearing yellow and sharing self-care tips in the Atrium.

We continue to encourage all students to look after themselves and each other, and to reach out whenever support is needed – there's always someone ready to listen.



If you need urgent support during the half term break, we can recommend the following services:

- Kooth – real-time, online support An online counselling platform for young people aged 11-18.
- Childline – 0800 1111. 7:30am – 3.30am Helpline and webchat where you can talk about anything that's on your mind.
- CAMHS Crisis Line - 0800 953 9599. Open 24/7 365 days a year Immediate emotional and practical telephone support for young people aged 17 and under.
- Shout – text 85258. Open 24/7 365 days a year text support for young people in crisis.

As ever if a student has any worries about themselves or one of their peers, or have experienced or witnessed any form of discrimination in school they should pass this on to a member of our safeguarding team or use Whisper - our anonymous reporting tool. Safeguarding conerns can also be sent to safeguardingalert@redlandgreen.bristol.sch.uk

REMINDERS AND KEY DATES...

- Students should wear their identification lanyards at all times when on site

- Term 2 begins on Monday 2nd November 2026. It will be **week A** when we return

- Students should ensure they take part in one session of work experience during their time with us. Look out for the careers bulletin (here) for ideas.

We wish everyone a very restful half term break