

# TERM 5 AT RGS 2026



A short but action-packed term — with Year 13 students beginning to come to the end of their A levels and BTECs, and Year 12 students making the most of a rich programme of enrichment, careers events and wider opportunities. Please see below for a round-up of the term.



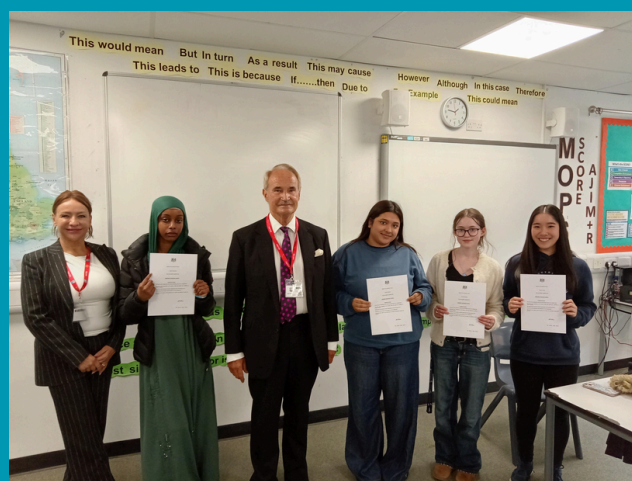
# TRIPS, VISITS AND WIDER OPPORTUNITIES

A number of Year 12 students attended the South West: UK's Intelligence Agencies Work Experience Day over the Easter break. The event included an introduction to the UK's intelligence agencies, tips for applications and interviews, and insight into a wide range of employment opportunities – a fascinating window into a rarely seen world.

We were also delighted to welcome a biology lecturer from the University of Bristol, who gave a talk on their research into plant tropisms and shared wider insights into life as an academic – a valuable opportunity for students considering university and research careers.

Retired circuit judge Mark Horton completed the third and final session of his law workshop with Year 12 students this term. He has given his time and expertise generously across all three visits, and the sessions have been an exceptional opportunity for students to engage with the legal system at the highest level. We extend our sincere thanks to him.

Huge congratulations as well to Year 12 and 13 students who took part in this year's Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad. Between them they achieved 3 Gold awards, 15 Silver awards and 5 Bronze awards. A large number of Y12 students received silver awards which is exceptional given they had covered less than half of the A-level course at the time of sitting the exam!



## TRIPS, VISITS AND WIDER OPPORTUNITIES (CONTD)

This term, A level History students have benefited from two excellent trips in support of their studies. A visit to Hampton Court Palace gave students the opportunity to explore Tudor life first-hand, deepening their understanding of the period in a way that no classroom lesson can replicate. Students also visited the library at the University of Bristol, developing their research skills and gaining a valuable taste of the kind of independent academic study that awaits them in higher education.

Year 12 Geography students took part in a residential trip to Slapton Bay in Devon, where they carried out fieldwork that will feed directly into their NEA coursework. Working in a genuinely beautiful and geographically rich coastal environment, students collected primary data and applied their classroom knowledge to real-world physical and human processes – an invaluable experience as they move towards the more independent stage of their A level studies.

Best of luck also to our Gold Duke of Edinburgh group - who set off for Dartmoor over the half term.



## FUTURES - NEXT STEPS

Now mock examinations are completed and Year 13 teaching is finished our focus will move to helping Year 12 students make decisions about their future. We will be running our annual "Futures" event on 30th June and 1<sup>st</sup> July which will consist of a wide range of different workshops on apprenticeships, university and employment.

We are also coming into university Open Day season. We can authorise time off school for Open Days (although many will take place at weekend as well). Details of Open Days can be found on the UCAS website here.

Year 12 students have been very successful in securing relevant and exciting work experience placements with a range of employers - including ARM, Southmead Hospital, Geographical Sciences at the University of Bristol and the BBC. Year 12 students who have not yet organised a placement can ask any member of the Post 16 team or their tutor for support and help. Careers opportunities are updated regularly and shared weekly in this document.



## DEBATING

This term saw some excellent informal debates organised by the debating committee, including students taking on the motion: "English is better than Maths." The arguments on both sides were sharp, spirited and impressive. After a very close contest, English just took the crown on this occasion. Congratulations to all who took part and made it such an enjoyable event.

# BFI ACADEMY AND FILM MASTERCLASS

Rosa in Year 12 has been attending the BFI Academy programme during this year - culminating in attending a film masterclass with Guillermo del Toro in London last week. Below she describes her experiences:

“BFI Academy courses aim to give young people aged 16-19 engaging opportunities to enhance their industry skills and build connections within the film community. After learning about a short film documentary course held at the Watershed, I applied and took part over a series of weekends last Autumn.

Not only did this course give me the chance to collaborate on a short film, giving me the credential as a producer, it enabled me to further explore my interests within the medium, meeting a range of other young people also looking for pathways into the industry.

Throughout the course, I gained hands-on experience with industry-grade cameras, editing software and sound and light equipment, as well as the opportunity to meet several industry professionals, including executive producers and directors.

This opportunity was invaluable to me as a young creative, and I would highly recommend anyone with a similar passion for film to apply to the BFI Academy's range of courses.”

To view Rosa's finished film [click here!](#)

“BFI Academy course Alumni also benefit from a wide range of opportunities after taking part, such as masterclasses with highly renowned filmmakers like Guillermo del Toro - director of Pan's Labyrinth and Frankenstein - whose Q&A I had the chance to attend earlier this month. This talk gave me a hugely valuable insight into the industry's many creative processes, as well as the opportunity to learn from one of film's brightest minds.”



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT

Year 12 students took part in a Dementia Awareness assembly, gaining an overview of dementia, its impact on individuals, and how we can support those living with the condition. Following this, students had the opportunity to attend an optional Dementia Friends session – a social action movement aimed at making communities more dementia-friendly. During the interactive hour, students explored the everyday challenges faced by people with dementia and were each encouraged to take a small but meaningful action, such as wearing a Dementia Friends badge or raising awareness among friends and family.

Becoming a Dementia Friend helps reduce stigma, builds empathy, and offers valuable experience students can draw on in personal statements and CVs. We are proud of the engagement and thoughtfulness students showed throughout. If you'd like to get further involved, useful next steps include signing up to an Alzheimer's Society event such as Trek 26 or the Bristol Memory Walk, hosting a Forget Me Not Tea Party, or visiting alzheimers.org.uk for more information. Support is also available via the Bristol Dementia Wellbeing Service, the Dementia Support Line (0333 150 3456), or the Talking Point forums at forum.alzheimers.org.uk.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We were delighted to celebrate the first meeting of our new Post-16 Student Council this term – a really positive step for student voice in the sixth form. We are especially pleased to welcome Lilah and Melika as our joint Post-16 Student Council Presidents. We look forward to working alongside them and the wider council in the months ahead.



# ACADEMIC PREPARATION AND STUDY SUPPORT

A reminder that there is lots of support available for academic/study skills via Upgrade. Students should contact Mrs Macadie, Miss Gin or Mrs Eastwood for more information.

## WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

Students – especially Year 13s – who are feeling the pressure are reminded that there is lots of support available. Please don't hesitate to ask. Our Post 16 counsellor Freya continues to be available, and wellbeing resources are shared regularly with students via email and tutor time.

Wellbeing updates are shared regularly [here](#).

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 concerns can also be sent to [safeguardingalert@redlandgreen.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:safeguardingalert@redlandgreen.bristol.sch.uk)**

## REMINDERS

- Students should wear their identification lanyards at all times when on site
- Term 6 begins for students on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. It will be **week A** when we return
- Year 13 students - please return all textbooks and subject resources to the boxes in Post 16 Reception on the day of your last exam.

We wish all students and parents a very restful break.