

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER – TERM 6

22/07/2025

Welcome from Mr Kneller, Headteacher

I would just like to start by saying thank you to our amazing staff here in school, for all their hard work, dedication and support in ensuring our young people have the best opportunities and start to life that they can have. Thank you to parents for your ongoing support this last academic year, it's been a year of change, a year of moving forward and this has been supported by attending parents' evenings and coming in to have conversations to sustain improvements. Most importantly I would like to say thank you to our students who have been truly amazing, they continue to be an inspiration to me and our staff, they are the reason we get up in the morning, I am proud of all their hard work this year and I hope they have a well deserved and rested summers break. We also say goodbye to our Year 11's and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them the very best of luck not only for their exam results but also as they move onto the next steps in their young lives.

It's been a busy term but as we draw it to a close, we have finished the term with lots of positives to share and highlight. We had dozens of trips going out for our Enrichment Week this year, which certainly added joy across the school, but these trips also act as the key ingredients to social and confidence development, allowing a set of life skills which fits into our bigger plan to get the best out of them academically and grow as individuals.

We recently held our Annual presentation of awards event which was held at Aztec West Hotel, the venue was spectacular, and we are very grateful to them for sponsoring this event. We awarded prizes in every year group for every subject, as well as 3 or 4 special awards, including a guess speaker who sang and spoke about over coming his barriers to learning, before securing a future in the music industry. Well done to all our award winners on the night.

Year 11 also did us proud at The grange Hotel on the 9th July as they enjoyed their much-awaited Prom evening, they looked stunning in their outfits, transport was fantastic, and our students behaved impeccably. It was a nice way to bring a close to their time here at Patchway.

In September we return with 2 staff inset days, Year 7 and 11 return on Wednesday 3rd September and then all school years will be in, on Thursday 4th September. Its important all students do come to school on the 1st day that is available to them, attendance is important to us and when you don't attend school, you get gaps in your learning which can also impact your mental health, so please work with us and ensure your child is in school everyday. Finally, enjoy the Summer break, our students

deserve it, you as parents deserve it and our teaching staff also deserve it. We look forward to welcoming you back in September for the new academic year.

Best Wishes, Stephen Kneller



Key Dates:-

- **Friday 18th July**
Last Day of Term
- **Mon 21st July**
Inset Day
- **Tuesday 22nd July**
Inset Day
- **Monday 1st September**
Inset Day
- **Tuesday 2nd September**
Inset Day
- **Wednesday 3rd September** Y7 & Y11 back to school
- **Thursday 4th September**
All students back to school
- **Friday 12th-13th September**
DofE Practice Expedition
- **Thursday 18th September**
School Open Evening
- **Thursday 18th September**
Student Photo-taking
- **Friday 19th September**
Late start at 10:00
- **Friday 26th September**
Patchway's Alumni Event
- **Tuesday 14th October**
Dropdown Day
- **Wednesday 22nd October**
Last day of Term
- **Thursday 23rd October**
Inset Day
- **Friday 24th October**
Inset Day



Merger of Futura and Olympus

Formal Approval

Thank you to all who attended the recent consultation events and/or shared views, questions and concerns regarding the proposed merger. Your feedback has been invaluable. A report has now been presented to the Boards of Trustees of both Trusts..

We will continue to keep you informed about progress in the coming months.



Update on merger of Futura and Olympus – July 2025

We are pleased to let you know that the Trust Boards of Futura Learning Partnership and Olympus Academy Trust have each given formal approval to the proposal that Futura and Olympus come together to form a new Trust, called Halcyon. The anticipated date for the merger to happen is January 1st, 2026. Both Trust Boards were keen to communicate this decision before our schools break for the Summer holiday and further communications will follow in the Autumn, as plans come together.

Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank those people who took part in the consultation, which they scrutinised as part of their decision-making. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will be available shortly on the Trust website. This addresses the questions asked during the consultation and will be updated as new questions are raised in the run-up to the merger.

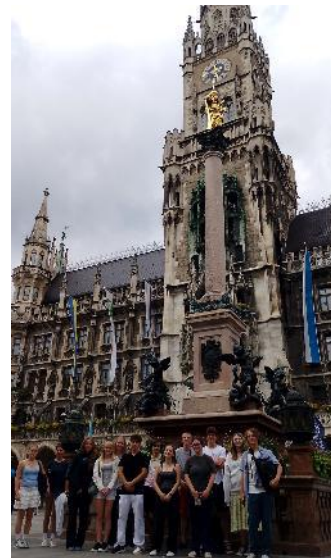
Next steps include undertaking the legal aspects of setting up the new Trust and developing plans, with the aim of ensuring that any changes are phased and manageable.

German Work Experience

A Trip to Gauting

The Year 10 work experience visit to our twin town of Gauting, set off on the road to the airport at 1:30am! Our students had a wonderful time with a packed schedule including dipping toes in the water at the Olympics rowing lake, meeting with the third mayor of Gauting, having some traditional Bavarian pastries, touring the school, swimming by Lake Starnberg, enjoying folk dancing and whip snapping, and even catching a train to Munich!

We are very much looking forward to another work experience in Gauting next year!



A visit from Clermont L'Herault and Gauting



We were also privileged to welcome visitors from the Town Councils of both our twin towns of Clermont L'Herault (France) and Gauting (Germany) in June. This visit was important to showcase the links we have been building with our Town Council and beyond. They were all very impressed with what they saw and with the students they spoke to who spoke very highly of our school. Here's to a long future of twinning links ahead.

Y9 & Y10 Olympus Team Maths Challenge

Hosting School – Patchway Community School

What a day we had at Patchway! 48 mathematicians from KS4 classes at Abbeywood Community School, Bradley Stoke Community School, Patchway Community School and Winterbourne Academy, expertly supported by 10 mathematicians from KS5 at Bradley Stoke and Abbeywood, took part in a day of mathematical challenges.

Enormous thanks go to Patchway Community School for hosting, the supervising KS5 mathematicians, the teachers (Mr England & Mr Jones, Miss Rahim, Mr Newport, Mr Hardy) for training and organising their school teams, the other mathematicians who came along to help (Mr Davies, Miss Todd, Miss Wright, Mr Reynolds), and mostly to the students for coming along, taking part joyfully, and excelling mathematically.

Next year we look forward to a year 7/8 challenge on Monday 1st December being held at Abbeywood, and a year 9/10 challenge taking place on Monday 29th June 2026 at Winterbourne. Will we see the trophy move away from Bradley Stoke after a threepeat?



Other Activities

African Dance at Supersonic Festival

On Saturday, a group of our students performed at the Supersonic Festival at Norman Scott Park. The Waka Crew (Shylet, Amanda, Funmi, Hanna, Kayla, Marvellous, Favour, Ameenat and Nicole) performed several African style dances in front of a crowd of people. This is the first time that Patchway Community School has been represented in this way in a number of years and we are very proud of them.



Positive Choices Survey

The Positive Choices Survey by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) is a research project designed to better understand the experiences, attitudes, and knowledge of young people in the UK around topics like relationships, sexual health, consent, and wellbeing. The survey aims to gather information that can help improve education and support services for young people, ensuring that lessons and resources are relevant, inclusive, and effective. The findings are used to guide positive, evidence-based changes in schools and communities.

Our current Year 11 students were involved in the longitudinal study all the way from Year 7 through to Year 11 and their insights have been very helpful for the research team who are publishing their findings on 25th September 2025.

Safeguarding

Summer Break



As the end of another academic year is in sight, maybe you have worries or concerns about how your child(ren) will cope over the long summer holiday, without the support of school.

Here are a few ideas and suggestions of things that you can do, over the 6-week break:

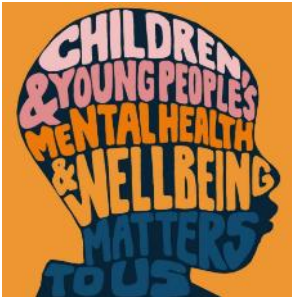
- Arrange activities that are cheap or free – visits to the park, walks/picnics in the woods, visits to the library, the local farm etc. These types of activities could be scheduled in each week to help give some structure to the 6 weeks holidays. An activity calendar can be found at the bottom of this page [South Glos LIFE](#) which lets residents know what's on in the local libraries and community spaces.
- There are holiday clubs or local events happening over the summer – [South Glos LIFE | School holiday activities and food programme](#)
- Help ensure that the children are involved in the planning of their summer break. What activities would they like to do? Parents need to ensure that their children do not spend 6 weeks on their computer but that they spend plenty of time outside and doing things away from a computer/phone screen.
- Decide on what the new rules and routines will look like over the summer. These may be slightly different than during term time but still need to be in place so that the children can easily get back into their normal routine in September. This includes morning and bedtime routines i.e. still having set bedtimes (although these may be slightly later than during term time) and a morning routine whereby the children get up, washed and dressed by an agreed time.

Below you will find some information about services and support, which families can also access throughout the summer.

Financial Support / Offers

1. Information on different ways of getting support with the cost-of-living rising [Cost of living help | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)
2. [Household support fund | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)
3. The government has provided funding for us to support people who are struggling to: buy food pay energy bills cover other essential costs linked to energy and wider essentials (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets)
4. [Places Kids Eat Free in the Summer Holidays 2024 \(moneysavingcentral.co.uk\)](#) is a website that tells families restaurants where kids eat free throughout the holidays.
5. [Financial support and wellbeing | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)

Young People’s Mental Health



- ❑ **Off The Record:** Free, self-referral counselling service for young people age 11-15, who are experiencing low mood, depression, anxiety, phobias, self-harm, eating problems and/or anger. Young people can call, email or text, and services operate in Patchway, Kingswood and Yate. Also offer parent support groups and sessions. Can also see [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more information and up to date groups and activities.
- ❑ Tel: 0808 808 9120. Text: 07896 880011. Website: [Home - OTR \(otrbristol.org.uk\)](#) Email: hello@otrbristol.org.uk
- ❑ **Kooth:** Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people 11-18. Monday – Friday 12pm – 10pm, Saturday – Sunday 6pm – 10pm. On Kooth you can: Chat to our friendly counsellors; Read articles written by young people; Get support from the Kooth community; Write in a daily journal. Website: <https://kooth.com/> [Home – Kooth](#)
- ❑ **Childline:** Free counselling via online webchat, and free support/advice available 24/7 via confidential helpline, and emails via the website. Tel: 0800 11 11. Website: www.childline.org.uk [Childline | Childline](#)
- ❑ **Young Minds** national charity offers confidential online and telephone information and support for anyone worried about the emotional, behaviour, or mental health of a child/young person up to 25 years of age, including ADHD, Autism and Aspergers. **Parents Helpline:** 0808 802 5544 Website: [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#)
- ❑ **Young Minds Crisis Messenger Service** for free 24/7 support across the UK of you are experiencing a mental health crisis. Text YM to 85258.

Adult Mental Health



- ❖ **South Gloucestershire Talking Therapies - Vitamins:** Therapeutic interventions including counselling and group courses, in line with people’s differing needs, age 16+. Self-referral via the website: wellaware.org.uk Tel - [0333 200 1893](tel:03332001893) [NHS Talking Therapies - North Somerset & South Gloucestershire \(vitahealthgroup.co.uk\)](#)
- ❖ **Samaritans:** Free, confidential emotional support for those experiencing despair, distress, self-harm or suicidal feelings.
- ❖ Tel: 116 123 (free, from any phone, 24/7). Website: www.samaritans.org [Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen](#) Email: jo@samaritans.org

‘Mental health is an integral component of maintaining good overall health.’

Family / Parenting Support

- **Solihull** – online parenting resources for parents, carers, grandparents and teenagers in South Glos. This is **free** lifetime access to a range of e-learning and online resources which span from pregnancy to 19 years. These courses can be worked through at a pace which suits the individual, with the aim of increasing parental knowledge and confidence around child development through all stages of the parenting journey. The courses aim to nurture emotional health and wellbeing so that our children can thrive as kind, sociable and emotionally aware people throughout their lives. [inourplace | Solihull Approach – South Gloucestershire | inourplace](#)
- **NHS website:** Advice for parents on a range of parenting issues, including talking to teenagers, fussy eating and teenage aggression. Website: [Live Well - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
- **CCP – Caring for Communities and People** – Offer outreach support and parenting courses for families at an early help level. [Home \(ccp.org.uk\)](#)

Support for Families who have Children with Additional Needs

- **SEND and You - SAY:** Local SEN and disability information service (SENDIAS) - Information and support around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, for children, young people and families. (previously Supportive Parents)

Tel: 0117 9897725 Mon-Fri 9.30 - 4.30 (answerphone at other times)

Email: support@sendandyou.org.uk

Website: [Home - SEND and You](#)

- **South Glos Parents and Carers:** Information and groups for parents who have children with a disability and/or additional needs. Offers a weekly drop in for parents and carers, support groups, workshops, counselling and events. They also run the Parent Care forum in South Gloucestershire to collect feedback and views from families with disabled children. Website: [South Glos Parent Carers \(sgpc.org.uk\)](http://sgpc.org.uk) Email: team@sqlospc.org.uk
- **JIGSAW Thornbury** Support families who have children who are 0-25 years and have any additional needs or disability. This can be anything from learning needs such as dyslexia to complex disabilities or medical problems. Many children who come have no diagnosis. Weekly support group for parents, carers and children + training courses on a range of topics. Telephone: 01454 416381 Website: [JIGSAW Thornbury | For Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities - SEN Lending Library, Events, Meetings, Bristol Area and the South West.](http://www.jigsawthornbury.co.uk)

The South Glos LIFE homepage has more information about services in South Glos [South Glos LIFE](#)



It's been a busy and rewarding time for Mrs Shute, with her Careers Interventions and trips this term. So many students have had the opportunity to join her both in and out of school and we have so much planned for next year already. Thank you, Mrs Shute, for all your hard work this term.

Airbus Visit for SEND Students

A group of 8 students from Year 10 were able to tour part of the Airbus site at Filton in April. We were shown how landing gear is tested, and students were able to operate the take off and landing wheels from the safety of a control room.

We discovered that engineering can be as much about computing as it is about tools! We were also given an inspirational presentation by a team of neurodiverse employees who showed us how their autism and ADHD can bring huge benefits to the working environment and how Airbus is an inclusive employer.



Envision Cohort 2



The Envision group successfully ran their Social Action Project 'Chill Club' in May. Their idea was to have a quiet lunchtime space where students could come to play games like Jenga, do mindful colouring or just chat and meet other people. They ran the club for a week, with a different year group invited to attend every day. The club was successful with positive feedback from students who attended. It was so popular that people kept coming back in the following week, even though the club was only on for a 5-day trial! The group did a fantastic job of presenting their project at the final event in front of 2 other schools and a panel of judges, discussing the skills they had used and developed as well as the challenges they had overcome.

Although they were not named the overall winner, their business mentors and PCS couldn't be prouder of how they did.

Year 8 Girls INWED Trip to MBDA

To coincide with International Women in Engineering Day, 10 Y8 girls were able to attend a day at MBDA in Filton. They met inspiring women engineers and found out about their careers so far. They also took part in a bridge building competition where they learnt the importance of planning and problem solving. The girls enjoyed meeting the role models and discovered how important teamwork is in successfully completing a project.

South Bristol Youth Green Skills Programme

15 Y9 students were selected to participate in an employability programme where they learnt about what it means to be sustainable in the workplace. The first session was delivered in school by SBY and volunteers from Law firm TLT. The second was a visit to Business West in Central Bristol where students took part in a carousel of activities including learning about solar panels and town planning and developing interviewing and communication skills. Students came away with a better understanding of how green skills and technology affect jobs now and in the future.



Pop Up Shops



Thursday lunchtimes this term have seen a wide range of providers and employers coming in to talk to students about what they could do in the future. This is available as a drop in to all students and included local colleges, universities, the Army, the police, Bristol Rovers, Bristol City, Bristol School of Acting, apprenticeship providers such as Focus Training and Reflections and employers such as Aviva and Circadian Group. There has been a great buzz in the hall as students get informed about their possible next steps



Year 10 Campus Tour to UWE

50 Year 10s had a taste of Uni life as we toured the Frenchay campus of the University of the West of England, took part in decision making activities and got first hand advice from current students. It was great to see how much our students learnt over the day and how inspired some of them were by the end of the day, even if they hadn't been sure Uni was for them.

Girls Get Set Visit to GKN

Over 30 girls from years 7-9 took part in Girls Get Set this year, learning more about how science is used in the workplace and investigating different careers from engineering to healthcare. They attended several online meetings, had 2 in-person events from our role models at GKN and finished the programme with a visit to GKN itself. We were kept very busy, taking part in a workshop tour (where we met a huge robot!) making and flying planes using our scientific knowledge to make adjustments, building towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows, finding out about aircraft parts and making a propeller turn by using hydrogen power.

All participants were also awarded a bronze industrial cadets award and a badge.



What's Coming Up....



26th September - Alumni Breakfast Tour



10th October - Mock Interview Day for Year 11



Term 2 - work experience launch for Year 10



4th November - BAE systems roadshow on AI for Year 7



28th November - Careers fair for years 9, 10 and 11



Enrichment Week 2025

What a Week!!

What a wonderful week we have all had for our Enrichment Week. There has been a lovely vibe around school hearing students talk about their activities and experiences, and which trip they enjoyed the most. Base Patchway also participated in some amazing sessions led by our teachers and Sports Day was a huge success. Look out for all the photos in next terms Newsletter, where we will also get to hear from Mr Evans who led our Bushcraft Residential this year.



Enjoyment



Working Together



Memories



Team Work



Challenging Yourself



Learning Outside of the Classroom



Fun and Laughter



Building on Friendships



A Time for Celebration



Brooke L – Citizens in Policing

Year 9 student **Brooke** came second and received a highly commended award from the chief constable.



Celebrating 25 Years with Patchway Community School

We are so blessed to have Mrs Skuse, our amazing receptionist, with us for 25 years!

Every parent and student would agree that Mrs Skuse has the most delightful smile and she is always calm and helpful. Congratulations to her **25th anniversary at work**, and we are of course expecting more to come!



A Letter from Sir David Attenborough

This term, the Hive English groups at Patchway Community School have been creating and sending letters to people and places of interest. A Few weeks ago, Taylor in Year 7 received a lovely letter back from Sir David Attenborough after writing to him and asking him about animals. She was very excited to have a letter from him and had it in a frame for safe keeping!

Dear Sir David Attenborough,

My name is Taylor, I am 12 years old and I go to Patchway community school . My favourite lessons are science and PE but I have ADHD so I sometimes can't focus in many lessons. I try hard to focus and I love animals and the environment.

I am writing to you because I really like how you advocate for animals and the planet we live in. I think you are amazing at describing animal behaviours! I wanted to know what your favourite place was in the world? Also do you have a favourite animal?

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope to hear from you soon.

From Taylor MM

5 Park Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6NS

21.6.25



Dear Taylor,
Thank you for your letter. I am so glad you enjoy my programmes.
Best wishes
David Attenborough

from David Attenborough



Taylor MM Yr7
Patchway Community School
Hepton Lane
Bristol BS32 4AJ



Other News

A Book Written by an Alumni

My name is John Alexander Edwards, I used to be a student at Patchway Community College, (2009-2015). I have written and published a novel called the Furniture Being, my pen name is Simon Ingsworth.

The main protagonist of this story is Alexander who is an undiagnosed neurodivergent, he is grieving from the death of his mother. He starts off in a state of burnout, he is just pacing around this flat trying to work out what to do with himself. He has a surprise encounter with a Victorian creation called the Furniture Being, this creation communicates to him using spiritual energy instead of verbal communication. Throughout the story he has encounters with this creation which help to build a strong spiritual and emotional bond, which gives him the strength to make daring decisions as well as develop an appreciation for the world around him. he also has encounters with The Shadow Figure and the 8- winged demon bats which symbolise his inner demons.

By negotiating challenges with the metaphysical world, he can develop the confidence to apply himself to real life situations, which he would normally avoid. There are lots of notable experiences that he has in the real world such as dating a foreign woman, working in a hotel and lots of other strange and bizarre encounters.

I believe that this book would be inspirational to many students especially the one with additional needs. I have already posted the book in an article in The Bradley Stoke Matters.



Kids Go Free on the West Buses

Children and young people under the age of 16 are set to be able to travel for free on buses across our region during the school holidays, thanks to new investment proposed by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority.

Around 150,000 kids in Bath & Northeast Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire aged from 5-15 years old could benefit from free bus travel this summer – just by hopping on board, with no bus pass or registration required.

Please click on the link below to find out more!

[Kids go free on the West's buses - West of England Combined Authority](#)

Student Absence

If you need to report a student absence, please follow one of the following steps:-

- Email to StudentAbsence@patchwaycs.org.uk **or**
- Report via Study bugs at <https://studybugs.com/about/parents> **or**
- Leave a voice message on the school's landline 01454 862020 after pressing the "student absence" option

Student Holiday Requests

Please also be aware holiday request form can be found on our school website, should you need to make a request during term time, please download this form and return it to school - <https://www.patchwaycs.org.uk/Holiday-Request-Form/>

Patchway Community School Alumni

You may well be aware that Patchway Community School is due to be rebuilt in the coming years. We would love to hear from you if you were a student here and would like to reconnect with us. Events could involve:



- A tour of the school as it is now
- A speed networking style session with our younger students where you describe what you do for your job and how you got into it (with opportunity for students to ask questions).
- A display of ex-students' career paths with photos for a permanent board
- A tour of the new school once it is built

Please email anna.shute@olympustrust.co.uk if you would like to join in with our celebration of Patchway past and future!

Social Media

Please follow our online platforms to keep connected and updated:



Facebook @Patchway Community School



YouTube Channel @Patchway Community School



School website - <https://www.patchwaycs.org.uk/>



50% off
the first
week

INTRODUCING *Living Well Days*

Starting 1st of July 2025

Stay active, stay social – light sports for people with dementia.



Hanham Community Centre

Every Tuesday | 10:00am - 2:00pm



Scan me

Try something new!



Join us for engaging, safe and fun activities - including soft foam archery, movement games and more - led by a friendly, trained sports coach.



Enjoy a relaxing time:

Hot and cold drinks all day, plus a tasty lunch provided.



Make friends, stay active and have fun in a safe, supportive space.

Who's it for?

People living with dementia - all abilities welcome!

How to join?

Get in touch today to secure your spot or find out more.

Contact Your Care:

0117 9477422
or email us on
admin@your-careuk.co.uk

Let's get together for a joyful Tuesday!

Because staying active, social and supported makes all the difference!



INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL LESSONS

Instrumental and vocal lessons at school are provided by teachers from West of England Music & Arts (WEMA)

LESSON OPTIONS

30 minutes individual x 10 lessons
20 minutes individual x 10 lessons
30 minutes paired x 10 lessons
Group x 10 lessons



Inquire within school about possible remissions if your child is registered as receiving income-based Pupil Premium funding. Tick the box on the WEMA sign-up page if eligible. WEMA will then contact you to discuss final arrangements.



INSTRUMENT HIRE

Instruments are not provided by the school. However, there are a wide range of instruments that can be hired from WEMA music hub. These are free to hire for students receiving Pupil Premium. Contact WEMA directly by adding hire to your application or emailing: music@wema.org.uk

For more details go to:
wema.org.uk/learn-to-play



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