



Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 26 **Week Commencing Monday 13 April 2026** **Celebrating Student Achievements and Events**

Welcome back to the summer term! It has been an incredibly busy five weeks leading up to the Easter break. Following the news of Mr Mitchell's retirement and Mrs. Bendall-Burt stepping down from her Head of House role effective this September, we have been working hard to secure the future leadership of our school.

We are delighted to announce that we have now filled all of these roles and more. As many of you are aware, Mrs Hill will be stepping up to join our Senior Leadership Team. This transition created an opening for two Head of House positions.

We are pleased to announce that Miss Malsom will be replacing Mrs. Hill as head of house for Wilson. Miss Malsom is a familiar face to many; she has been shadowing our Heads of House for several years and has gained significant experience by stepping up to lead the team during staff absences.

While Jenner House will be sad to see Mrs. Bendall-Burt step back from her leadership role, we are excited to welcome Mr Buckley (our current Head of Geography) as the new Head of House starting in September. To ensure a smooth transition, Mrs Bendall-Burt will be working closely with him in the background, passing on her extensive knowledge of our families to ensure his success.

This term marks the beginning of our formal exam session. We are kicking things off immediately with Art and Language oral exams, which will lead directly into the main bulk of exams for all students.

We ask for your continued support in helping our students manage their workload. While additional revision is vital, it is equally important that they have scheduled downtime. The exam period is long, and we must work together to ensure they stay healthy and avoid burnout. We have every confidence in our students and wish them the very best of luck in the coming weeks!

Masked Singer Result 2026

Wow! What an event! Who knew there was so much vocal talent among the staff at Dene Magna! Thank you to all the staff who took part, for Mrs Brown for hosting and for the students for being such a great audience. I know that their cheers definitely made it easier to perform!!!

The winner of this year's masked singer was Parrot who sang Fever Dream by Alex Warren

Masked Singer will return next year!

For all those that joined in with the competition, the masked singer will now be revealed.

Competitor No 1 – Monkey – Mr James – Head of Foley House



Competitor No 2 – Poodle – Mr Adams – Head of Technology



Competitor No 3 – Parrot – Mr Derrick – Dream Maker Co-ordinator



Competitor No 4 – Frog – Mr Jones – Head of Maths



Competitor No 5 – Lion – Miss Van Dorpe – Maths Teacher



U14s Girls EDF Cup – From the Forest to Queensholm.

On Thursday, 23rd April, the girls will travel to the iconic Kingsholm Stadium in Gloucester the legendary Queensholm to compete in the regional semi-finals.

- Date: Thursday, 23rd April
- Venue: Kingsholm Stadium, Gloucester
- Match 1: Semi-Final vs. Ribston Hall

Tickets are £5 per person and are now available please click on the link below to purchase your tickets.

<https://www.eticketing.co.uk/gloucesterrugby/EDP/Event/Index/246?position=1>

Mr Mooney has said that parents can pick up students from school at 3pm to support the girls at Kingsholm

'Meet The Team'

Amber W

My friends encouraged me to join the school rugby team. I play at number 4 in the second row. My friends inspired me to take up rugby as they are really good and some of my family as they have played rugby. I'm a bit nervous about playing at Kingsholm but I'm excited because it's going to be a great experience. I love playing in a great team and the adrenaline buzz.



Polly B

I got into rugby from my grandad he played high level rugby. I play at number 5 which is in the second row. I was inspired to take up the game by my friends. I am excited and can't wait to play at Kingsholm but am also a little nervous. I love playing with a team and all getting involved and making new friends.



We have 6 days remaining until game day, please purchase your tickets.

Good luck, girls, the whole of Dene Magna is behind you!



U12, U14 & U16 Girls Rugby

We had the pleasure of taking our U12, U14 and U16 girls' rugby teams to Churchdown School on Wednesday for a fantastic day of competitive rugby.



The teams faced strong opposition from Crypt Grammar School, Malmesbury School, Churchdown School and Newent School. Across all age groups, the standard of play was excellent, with our players showing great skill, determination and teamwork throughout the tournament.



We're incredibly proud of all three teams, who performed brilliantly and came away with 2nd place finishes in each age group — a fantastic achievement!

Ski Trip 2026

This year's ski trip to **Zell am See** was an outstanding success and an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. A total of **47 students** took part in the trip, and throughout the week they demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm, resilience, and determination all week.



From the very first day on the slopes, students showed great commitment to improving their technique. With excellent instruction and plenty of time on the mountain, all groups made **incredible progress across the week**. Beginners quickly built confidence and mastered the basics, while more experienced skiers refined their skills and challenged themselves on more demanding runs. By the end of the trip, it was fantastic to see how much every student had improved.



The **weather conditions were perfect**, providing excellent snow throughout the week. These ideal conditions were more familiar with February trips rather than Easter skiing but we were very grateful for this weather.



Evenings were filled with a range of **entertaining activities** that helped build friendships and create lasting memories. Students enjoyed swimming sessions, bowling, and a traditional **Tyrolean evening**, which gave everyone a taste of local culture.



Beyond the skiing itself, the trip offered students the opportunity to develop independence, teamwork, and confidence while sharing a memorable experience with their peers. The positive attitude, behaviour, and support students showed for one another throughout the week were truly commendable.



Overall, the trip was a tremendous success. The students not only improved their skiing ability but also created **memories that will last a lifetime**. We are incredibly proud of how they represented the school and embraced every opportunity the trip offered.

A huge thank you goes to all staff who supported and organised the trip, as well as to the students whose enthusiasm and effort made the week such a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Mr Griffiths has launched next year's ski trip, any student wishing to go please collect a letter from the PE Office.

SCIENCE FAIR 2026!

Mrs Brown and Mrs Hammond are delighted to share the success of the school Science Fair, where students from Dene Magna and Forest View amazed everyone with their creativity and curiosity.

The event showcased a wide variety of exciting projects, from water cycles, Dene Magna/s very own ice-cream parlour to rainbow milk and lava lamps. Each student worked hard to explore scientific ideas, asked thoughtful questions, and presented their findings with confidence.



Visitors were impressed by the effort and imagination on display. The Science Fair has been a wonderful opportunity for students to develop important skills such as problem solving, teamwork, and communication, while also having fun with hands on learning through investigative practices.



A big thank you goes to our teachers, staff, and families for their support in making the event such a memorable experience. Most importantly, congratulations to all of our young scientists for their fantastic work!



We are proud of all the students who participated and look forward to even more exciting learning adventures in the future.

Literacy Matters

World Book Day Fundraising:

Thanks to all those who participated in the World Book Day fundraising activities. The grand total raised was £39.71 and this will be on its way to Book Aid International shortly.

Battle of the Books Bookclub:

Begins on Wednesday when we will be announcing the shortlist.

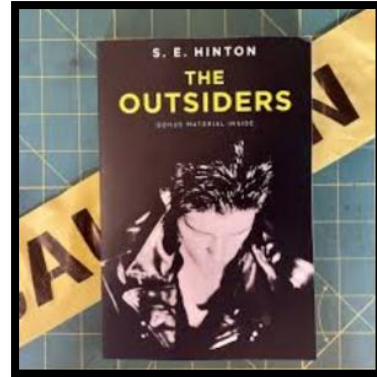
We'll be meeting weekly to read and discuss the books, working towards deciding on our finalists by the end of June. The book club is open to Years 7-10 and is a great opportunity to discover.



new books, fantastic discussion and a supportive group of students.

If you know of anyone who would like to take part, please do let them know: we will be meeting in the library at 12:45pm on Wednesday 22nd April!

As part of our **Tutor Reading Programme**, Miss Eade's tutor group (with GITEP student Miss Nash reading) are enjoying 'The Outsiders' by S.E. Hinton. Published by [Penguin Books](#) as part of their 'Originals' series, this is a coming of age tale set in 1960s America.



Art Update

Well done to 7F for completing your Henri Matisse Research pages in your sketchbooks, everyone has taken pride in their presentation and shown real creativity!



Year 11 Important Info

As we move closer to the exams I want to thank you as parents and carers for your hard work supporting the students. It is great to see so many working so hard. If you are worried about your son/daughter and would like to chat. Feel free to email.

One thing that students will need to be aware of is that the timetable will change during exams. This is due to students needing to be in front of the right teachers as they prepare for their exams. For example, if they have their biology exam in the afternoon, they will spend p2 and 3 with their biology teachers. The daily timetable will be shared each day with you and the students.

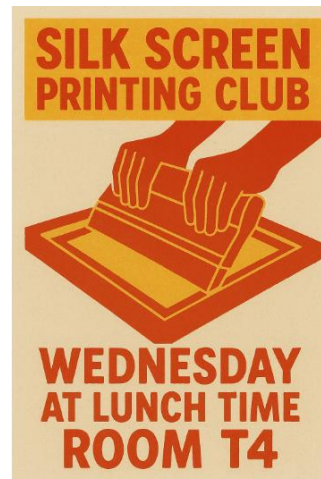
As in previous years, students do not go on study leave and we keep them in school to get the maximum level on impact from their teachers. It is vital that students attend every lesson.

Please can you make sure that your student has all the necessary equipment as we move towards the exams.

Clear pencil case, black pens, pencils, calculator, protractor, ruler, and compass

New Club

Join our brand-new Screen Printing Club, running every Wednesday lunch time with Miss Davies from D&T! All skill levels are welcome.



Summer PE Clubs

Please see below the new PE clubs that will run after the Easter holidays. All clubs are held during lunchtimes, all students to meet at (hall side) changing rooms at the start of lunchtime!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Softball Y7 & Y8 (PG/AU/SA)	Softball Y9 & Y10 (PG/AU)	Cricket Nets All Years (AU/PG)	Athletics Y9 & Y10 (DH/PG/BJa/AU)	Athletics Y7 & Y8 (SA/PG//LG)
Rounders Y7 & Y8 (DH/BJa/MP/LG)	Rounders Y9 & Y10 (BJa/DH/LG)		Tennis Y7 & Y8 (JDe/SA/LG)	Tennis Y9 & Y10 (BJa)
				Girls Rugby Club ALL YEARS JDe

RSHE Update

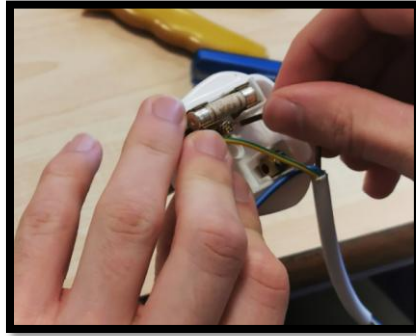
This term the topics we will be studying are:

- ❖ Year 7 - Intentional Stillness & Sleep, Equality & Diversity, Finance
- Year 8 - Understanding Periods, Sustainability, Finance
- Year 9 - Health Checks, Addiction, County Lines
- Year 10 - Parenting, Personal Safety, Body Image
- Year 11 - Personal Safety, County Lines, Addiction

If you would like support in discussing any of these topics at home, please visit the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning website. <https://www.ghll.org.uk/advice-for-parents-exams-money-parents-helpline/>

6th Form Update

Mrs Salisbury's Year 13 tutor group have been practicing their DIY skills during RFL, including re-wiring plugs, sewing on buttons and learning how to fix clothes. Basic (and eco-friendly) knowledge which may come in useful as they set off for university or employment next year



Forest of Dean Youth Parliament

On Thursday 23rd April our politicians-in-training will be heading to the Forest of Dean Council Chambers for the main event of their Youth Parliament programme.

The programme has seen them travel around the Forest over the last few months, learning about Parliamentary procedure from Matt Bishop MP, and practicing debating skills with other schools in the area.

On Thursday from 6pm they will take to the Council Chambers in a mock Parliament style debate, where the 'Government' will defend their bill on Artificial Intelligence, and the 'Opposition' will aim to scrutinise, all presided over by an experienced Speaker. This Friday they had a practice run in the Council Chambers, and it has really fired them up for next week's event!

They have engaged really well with the inaugural Forest of Dean Youth Parliament and we wish them the best of luck as they take to the debating arena.



Exam Prep

As exams are fast approaching, all 6th Form students have now been issued with their exam timetables. Please make sure you check your schedule carefully so you are fully aware of the date, time and location of each of your exams.

It is important that you plan ahead and consider how you will travel to your exam venue, allowing enough time to arrive promptly.

Please ensure you are well prepared and organised for the exam period.

School Games Update

Thanks to all schools who attended our fun tennis festival this week at Dene Magna!

The pupils attending had fun, learned new skills and gave it their all, which was the main aim of the sessions.



Thanks to Jai for coaching and planning the session, he did an amazing job and brought great energy to the courts! Thanks also to Ross and Harry from **Forest of Dean LTC** and **Usk Tennis Club** for their assistance with these sessions.

A big thank you to the Year 10 Dene Magna students who supported the event, they were great role models to the primary school pupils.



Outside Achievements

If your son/daughter takes part in any activities outside of school and you would like their achievements published in the weekly bulletin, please send in a small paragraph or two about them and their success and a photo to reception@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to Mirren B who over the Easter Break, has achieved an exciting milestone in her rugby journey.

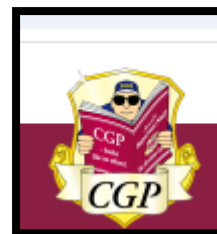
Representing Drybrook RFC, Mirren travelled to Cornwall for trials with a 5am start and an eight hour round trip, before returning in time to attend training the same day. Following her efforts she was selected for the Ultimate Rugby 7s Academy, a high performance pathway program training players towards elite and international rugby sevens and, beyond that, the Olympics.



A Big Thank You

We would like to say a very big thank you to the following companies for their generous donation towards this year's Timetable Suspension activities.

- ❖ Yew Tree Pub, Longhope (Flamin Edges)
- ❖ Willowstone Garden Products
- ❖ SJC Autos Ltd
- ❖ Taylors Jewellers of Lydney
- ❖ CJP Educational Books



Timetable suspension is held from Wednesday 1 July to Friday 3 July 2026 and is three days of extra-curricular activities for those students that have not been successful in gaining a place on the Year 7 Normandy trip, Year 8 London trip and Year 9 Camp trip.

This year students will be participating in a visit to **Drayton Manor Park**, an outdoor experience with **Progressive Sports**, who will deliver Glow in the Dark Dodgeball, Battlefield Archery, Nerf Wars and Tchoukball/Ultimate Frisbee as well as inflatables, rounder's match and tug of war competition and lastly a **carousel of events**, including Dance/Circus Skills, Drumming workshop, ICT gaming and a movie.

If there are any other companies or individuals who would like to donate to this event, please contact the school.

My Child at School App

Please can we ask that any updates to student's personal information, parents emergency contact details, email addresses and medical conditions be added via the "My Child At School" app. The app will now be used to book parent/career evening appointments.

A Big Thank You from Mara - MacMillan Cancer Support

Mara would like to say a **big thank you** to all those people who donated to her just giving page in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, she complete the run in 2hrs 10mins and raised £2,600. The just giving page is still open should anyone wish to still donate which will be extremely appreciated.

If you would like to support Mara's incredible effort, here is her fundraising page: <https://zurl.co/3oIjC>

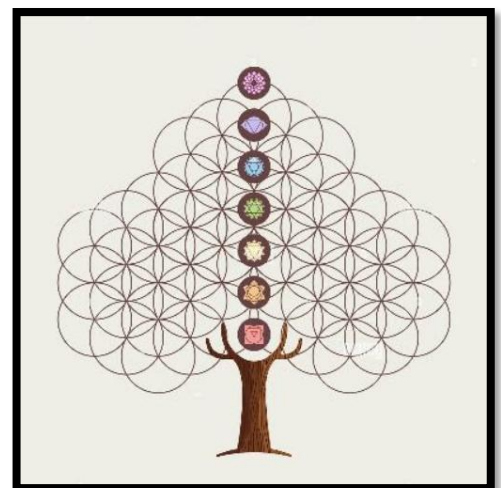
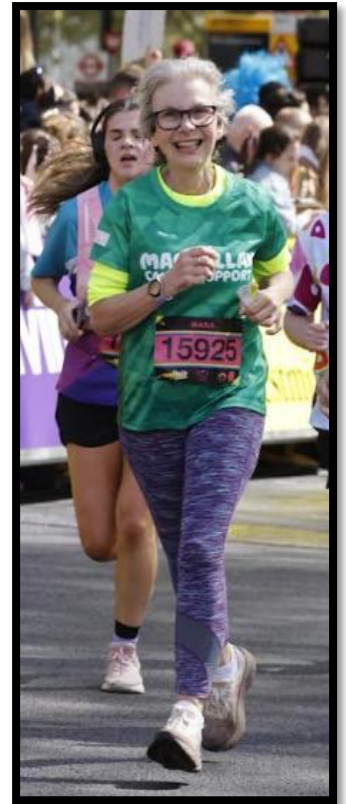
Creative Saturday Workshops at ArtSpace

The Tree in Yoga and Art, with Aileen Wright. Saturday 25th April from 10:30am – 4:30pm (at Artspace Cinderford). Cost: £60/ *£45 concessions including materials

Join Aileen for a nourishing day of yoga, breath-work, and art inspired by the timeless symbol of the Tree. In the morning, we'll root ourselves through mindful movement and breath — exploring balance, strength, and connection with the living world.

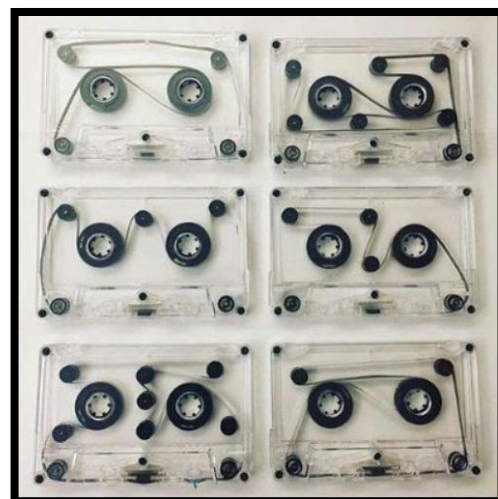
In the afternoon, we'll turn to creative play, letting our hands express what our bodies have felt. Drawing on the tree's symbolism across yoga and world mythologies, we'll explore themes of rootedness, growth, and transformation through paint, ink, and natural materials. We'll also look at how the tree has been represented in art throughout history, taking inspiration from artists such as Klint and Mondrian. This workshop welcomes all levels of experience — in both yoga and art — and invites a day of gentle discovery, connection, and creative renewal.

Lo-Fi Loop Collages, with Heather Hughes. On Saturday 25th April from 10:30am – 1:30pm (at Artspace Cinderford). Cost: £40/ *£30 concessions including materials



On this one-day workshop you'll explore the art of creating tape loop collages. A creative, hands-on process combining sound, memory, and visual art. Using recycled cassette tapes, you'll learn how to cut, splice and loop magnetic tape to create your own sonic artwork. You'll be encouraged to record sounds, voices or ambient textures to develop your own concept, and experiment with collaging the tape itself into tactile visual pieces.

This workshop celebrates the beauty of lo-fi sound and the poetry of reuse; where old media becomes something entirely new. Each participant will take home a unique looping cassette, alongside the skills to keep experimenting. All materials provided (you're welcome to bring an old tape to collage if you wish).



Creative Courses at Artspace

Artspace Cinderford are delighted to offer FREE creative courses for eligible adults in Gloucestershire, at our fully equipped studios in Cinderford and online.

Drawn In- Playful Drawing with Nicky Payne

Starts Tuesday 28th April / 9 weeks with half-term break
1:15pm – 2:45pm (at Artspace Cinderford)

*FREE for eligible learners

Cost: £55/ *£35 concessions

An inclusive course for creatives of all abilities to develop individual styles and skills at their own pace.

In this class we will explore drawing and a wide range of materials and techniques, making connections with artists that use similar materials. Join in with group discussion and set tasks alongside supported independent work with experienced artists/tutors.

Be ready to have fun, share ideas and join a little creative community.

FREE spaces for Gloucestershire adults that...

- do not have full level 2 qualifications (5 GCSE's at level 4+) and...
- are in low wage brackets/not in employment and...



Join The Forest of Dean Wellbeing Choir at Artspace Cinderford!

Looking for a fun, friendly way to boost your wellbeing and connect with others? Our community choir welcomes everyone. No previous experience is necessary, no auditions, no reading music and all of our songs are learnt by ear. Emphasis is on singing from the heart, having fun and using the voice for an increased sense of wellbeing.

The choir is a friendly, inclusive group which can help build confidence, form friendships, improve teamwork and learn performance skills. We engage in community events across the Forest of Dean, including local festivals and events and we have a growing set, including a wide and varied mix of songs.

If you would like to come along and see if it is for you, please do join us at one of our rehearsals – you will have a warm welcome and free refreshments are available.

We're especially hoping to attract more Alto and male voices to enrich our sound, so if you fall into those categories, we'd love to hear from you!

Rehearsals take place at Artspace Cinderford, The New Mercury, 3 Woodside Street, Cinderford, GL14 2NL.

Join us on Mondays 7pm-9pm – £5 per session (starting 13th April with half-term break) or Thursdays 11am-1pm – £5 per session (starting 16th April with half-term break) or come both days for £8 per week

To book use the link below, email info@artspacecinderford.org or call 01594 825111.

Choir sessions at Artspace will take a half-term break between 25th and 29th May and we will not run on May bank holiday.

South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026

Entries are open for South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026. An opportunity for young cooks, aged 11-16 to demonstrate their culinary skills, meet like-minded young people and learn from some of the region's leading chefs.

Young cooks are invited to send us their recipe for a main course dish, using principally locally-produced ingredients. Our judges will be looking for recipes that demonstrate skill and creativity. After assessing all recipes entered, our judges will select the entrants they would like to invite to a final in their own county initially. Here they will be asked to prepare their dish for our judges and each of the county winners will then meet at the overall South West final.

Gloucestershire County final

The Gloucestershire county final will be held on Thursday 25th June at Bath College at 3.15pm, when competitors will be given 90 minutes to prepare two portions of their dish.

Overall South West final

Before meeting at the grand final, all county winners will be offered mentoring with one of our esteemed judges, to help them to prepare and elevate their dish for the final, which will take place on Saturday 10th October at Exeter College in Devon. The mentoring process also provides

finalists with an opportunity to further develop their skills and gain valuable experience of a commercial kitchen.

How to enter

Full details can be found in the attached file, which can easily be circulated among students who you feel may be interested in entering. You will also find further information and an entry form on our website at <https://www.southwestchef.co.uk/the-competition/junior-chef>. Entrants must submit their recipe with their entry form. Photographs of the dish may also be sent but this is optional.

For a taster of the types of dishes prepared in last year's final, information and photographs can be found at <https://www.southwestchef.co.uk/the-2025-results/>

Entry closing date: Tuesday 26th May 2026

Springboard FutureChef

Thanks to our partnership with the Springboard FutureChef competition, all South West Junior Chef finalists will also be invited to take part in the regional final of the [Springboard FutureChef competition](#), bypassing the school and county heats, to compete for a place in their national final. (As long as they meet the FutureChef's slightly different age criteria—FutureChef competitors must be in years 9-11).

About South West Chef of the Year

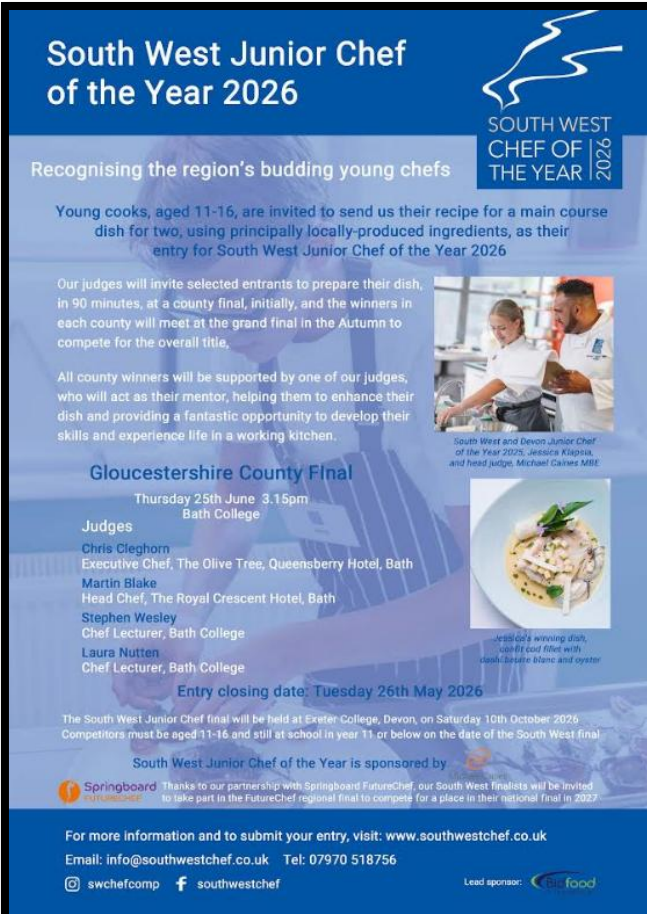
South West Chef of the Year was established 22 years ago and is run by renowned Michelin-starred chef, Michael Caines MBE DL, chef patron of Lympstone Manor in Devon, and me, to provide a platform through which professional, student and amateur chefs can demonstrate and further develop their skills and creativity and build on their culinary interest and ambitions. The Junior Chef award was launched in 2013 and we are delighted to have highlighted the skills of young chefs ever since.

Have a great weekend, fingers crossed for a sunny couple of days.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary:

20th April – Year 10 Boys District Football at Five Acres
20th – 23rd April – GCSE Art Exams
23rd April – U14 EDF Girls Rugby @ Kingsholm



South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026

Recognising the region's budding young chefs

Young cooks, aged 11-16, are invited to send us their recipe for a main course dish for two, using principally locally-produced ingredients, as their entry for South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026

Our judges will invite selected entrants to prepare their dish, in 90 minutes, at a county final, initially, and the winners in each county will meet at the grand final in the Autumn to compete for the overall title.


All county winners will be supported by one of our judges, who will act as their mentor, helping them to enhance their dish and providing a fantastic opportunity to develop their skills and experience life in a working kitchen.

Gloucestershire County Final
Thursday 25th June 3.15pm
Bath College


Judges
Chris Cleghorn
Executive Chef, The Olive Tree, Queensberry Hotel, Bath
Martin Blake
Head Chef, The Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath
Stephen Wesley
Chef Lecturer, Bath College
Laura Nutten
Chef Lecturer, Bath College

Entry closing date: Tuesday 26th May 2026

The South West Junior Chef final will be held at Exeter College, Devon, on Saturday 10th October 2026. Competitors must be aged 11-16 and still at school in year 11 or below on the date of the South West final.

South West Junior Chef of the Year 2025 is sponsored by  Springboard FutureChef. Thanks to our partnership with Springboard FutureChef, our South West finalists will be invited to take part in the FutureChef regional final to compete for a place in their national final in 2027.

For more information and to submit your entry, visit: www.southwestchef.co.uk
Email: info@southwestchef.co.uk Tel: 07970 518756
@ swchefcomp f southwestchef

Lead sponsor:  Bath Food

South West and Devon Junior Chef of the Year 2025, Jessica Klappa, and head judge, Michael Caines MBE

Jessica's winning dish, cauliflower florets with south coast blanc and oyster

24th April – Final payment of £52.00 for the Year 8 London Trip
27th – 30th A Level Art Exams
27th – 28th April – GCSE French Speaking Exams
29th April – A Level French Speaking Exams
30th April – 1st May – GCSE Spanish Speaking Exams
30th April – Year 7 Parent/Carer Evening
1st May – Final Payment of £200.00 for the Okinawa Visit