

BELGRAVE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

Dear Belgrave Families,

What an incredible week it has been at Belgrave! Our learners have been busy exploring and experiencing so much beyond the classroom. We've enjoyed trips to Tyntesfield, the farm, forest school, Arnos Vale Cemetery, and the Bristol Harbourside—each offering unique opportunities for learning and discovery. Back at school, excitement was high with our very own Traitors Challenge, which brought teamwork, strategy, and plenty of fun! We're also delighted to have welcomed new learners to Belgrave and supported those joining us for taster days. It's been heartwarming to see everyone showing such kindness and encouragement, making sure every learner feels part of our community.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make these experiences possible. We look forward to sharing more adventures with you soon!

Warm regards,
The Belgrave Team



Above: A 'baaaa-rillicant' photo of one of the sheep at Hartcliffe City Farm, taken by one of our learners

Diary Dates

- w/b Mon 17th Nov - Year 11 'Mock' Week
- Weds 19th Nov - Year 8 visiting M Shed
- Weds 19th Nov - International Men's Day
- Thurs 20th - Year 9 visiting the farm
- **Fri 19th Dec - end of term: early closure for learners at 1pm**

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LETTER

As you are aware, we interviewed for a new Principal before the break. We are pleased to inform you that the candidate we interviewed, Gwen Bennion, was successful, and she will be joining us in January. She has written a letter to introduce herself, which we have included for you to read.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm pleased to introduce myself as the new Principal of The Belgrave School. Bristol has been my home for over twenty years, and I feel lucky to be joining such a welcoming school community that values inclusion, care, and success for every young person.

I've spent most of my career working with children and young people who have special educational needs or face barriers to learning. Along the way, I've had the privilege of leading and supporting in settings such as Kingsweston Special School, The Meriton Young Parents Education Provision, and Bristol Hospital Education Service. These experiences have shaped my belief that every child deserves an education that celebrates their strengths and helps them to thrive both academically and personally.

As a leader, I'm passionate about creating a school where everyone, students and staff alike, feels valued, supported, and inspired. I believe in working together, building trust, and fostering a culture of kindness, curiosity, and continuous learning. My approach is grounded in a belief in every student's potential, balanced with compassion, ensuring that every young person feels safe to take risks, learn from mistakes, and achieve their best.

What drew me most to The Belgrave School is its strong sense of community and commitment to personalised education. The emphasis on emotional wellbeing, independence, and individual growth truly reflects what I believe education should be about. I'm excited to work alongside the dedicated staff and families to build on the fantastic work already happening here and to keep finding new ways to help the students flourish.

Outside of school, I love the outdoors and the positive impact it can have on wellbeing. I'm a keen climber and serve as the South West representative for the British Mountaineering Council's Youth Climbing Series. Organising events for young people to develop confidence, teamwork, and resilience is something I really enjoy, and those same qualities are ones I bring into my leadership every day.

As I start this new chapter, I'm looking forward to getting to know our students, staff, and families. I believe that strong partnerships with parents and carers are key to every child's success, and I'm eager to listen, learn, and work together to make sure every young person feels safe, supported, and motivated to reach their potential.

I can't wait to meet many of you soon and work together to celebrate and build on the strengths of The Belgrave School.

Warm regards,

Gwen Bennion

STAFF UPDATES

At the end of December, we will be saying goodbye to our wonderful cook, Mandy Hembury, who has been such an important part of life at Belgrave. Her delicious meals have been enjoyed by us all—especially those famous brownies that everyone looks forward to! We wish her all the best for the future.



As you may be aware, Ms Cathryn Leigh joined us as a maternity cover last year, and has been teaching Geography and Humanities. Ms Leigh will be leaving at the end of this term, as we prepare for Ms Koulouris' return. We thank Ms Leigh for her commitment and dedication to our Belgrave learners, all of her contributions, and we wish her all the very best.



WOW MOMENTS



Above: a brilliant time was had by learners at Tyntesfield, visiting the pumpkin and gourd display

WOW MOMENTS



Above: Just some of the fantastic photos taken by learners on their trip to the city farm. There was even a special surprise visit from a fox!

WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?



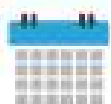
10 key facts you need to know



An apprenticeship is a real job
Available to individuals aged 16+ (with no upper age limit).*



Apprentices are paid a salary
All apprentices will earn a salary, which will vary depending on the role, but must be at least the National Minimum Wage for apprentices, which is currently £7.55 per hour.**



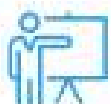
Duration of apprenticeships
Most apprenticeships typically take between 8 months and 6 years to complete.



Apprenticeships levels
Apprenticeship levels range from level 2 (foundation and intermediate) through to level 7 (master's level).



Apprentices do not pay for their training
Apprenticeship training costs are paid for by the employer and/or the government.



Apprentices receive paid off-the-job training (OTJT)
Each apprenticeship now has its own minimum paid OTJT, which apprentices spend gaining valuable skills and qualifications.



Apprentices will spend the majority of their time on-the-job
Most of an apprentice's paid time will be spent on-the-job, working with colleagues to learn new skills and gain experience of the workplace.

700

There are hundreds of apprenticeship standards
There are now nearly 700 apprenticeship standards. Find out more about them here: amapps.uk/a-zstandards

70%

The range of occupations is huge
According to Government statistics, nearly 70% of occupations can now be entered via an apprenticeship.***



There are thousands of apprenticeship roles
New apprenticeships are advertised throughout the year, covering a wide range of job roles.



Linked resource

Explore our other new and recently updated Rapid Reads (see link below).



[Click here to view or scan the QR code](#)



*Some standards only funded for those aged 22+ if eligibility is met

**correct as of April 2025

***Apprenticeship achievements - An update for the sector

Our Safeguarding Team



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