Weekly Bulletin

3rd July, 2026

A Warm Welcome to Our New Deputy Principal

We are delighted to welcome Karen Thackery as our new Deputy Principal. Karen visited the school yesterday and spent time in all of our classes, getting to know staff and learners. It was wonderful to see her already taking such an interest in our school community and beginning to build positive relationships with everyone. We are very much looking forward to Karen joining us full-time from September and are excited about the experience, enthusiasm and leadership she will bring to our school.

Please take a moment to read Karen's introduction below. We know you will join us in giving her a very warm welcome.

Hello, I'm Karen Thackery and I am delighted to be joining Belgrave School as Deputy Principal.

I have always been passionate about helping young people discover their strengths, build confidence, and experience success in learning. I have worked across a range of educational settings, including mainstream schools, SEND provision, and most recently a SEMH Alternative Provision in Bristol, where I taught Art, Maths and PSHE/Careers while leading work on curriculum, adaptive teaching, literacy and inclusion.

Before becoming a teacher, I worked in the media and later led a public policy research organisation. Those experiences continue to shape my curiosity, creativity and commitment to lifelong learning.

I believe that every child is unique, creative, and capable of learning when they feel safe, understood, and valued. Building strong relationships with young people and their families is at the heart of my approach, and I am committed to creating an environment where all learners in the room can flourish - academically and personally.

Creativity is a significant part of my life beyond school as well. I am a musician and artist, and I have recently recorded an album with my band in the Shetland Islands. This summer, I will be performing as a fiddle player in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. These experiences continually remind me of the power of creativity, discipline, and teamwork—qualities I am excited to bring into School.

I am especially looking forward to teaching GCSE Art, a real personal passion, and supporting learners to develop confidence, authentic self expression, joy and pride in their work.

I can't wait to meet everyone and become part of the Belgrave community.

Melrose EDI Competition

Our KS2 and Year 8 learners recently took part in the Melrose Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Competition, creating classroom door displays that celebrate the importance of inclusion, equality and respect for all.

The competition challenged learners to decorate a classroom door around an EDI theme, either focusing on a specific aspect of equity, diversity and inclusion or exploring the wider theme as a whole. Our learners embraced the challenge with creativity, thoughtfulness and enthusiasm, producing some fantastic designs.

We are incredibly proud of the completed doors and the positive messages they share about celebrating differences, valuing individuality and creating a sense of belonging for everyone in our community. Well done to all the learners involved for their hard work and teamwork. We look forward to hearing the competition results!

Staffing Update for the Upcoming Academic Year

We are pleased to share key information about our team for the next academic year, including class leads, subject teachers and curriculum leadership.

Class Leads and Parent Contacts

The following staff will be the class leads and your main point of contact for any queries or support:

- Year 11: Sarah Morris
- Year 10: Debbie Cranch
- Year 9: Ange Mattina
- Year 8: Felix McGovern
- Key Stage 2 & Year 7: Michelle Kimber

Support staff and timetables will be announced in the coming weeks.

Farewell to Miss Tempelman

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Tempelman at the end of this school year.

Miss Tempelman has been a valued member of the Belgrave community for the past 3.5 years, joining us as a Learning Support Assistant and progressing to become a Dyslexia Specialist Teacher. Throughout her time with us, she has made a significant contribution to the school and has supported many learners to achieve their potential.

Miss Tempelman is moving on to establish a community-focused business supporting parents of dyslexic children and promoting greater understanding of dyslexia. We are excited for her as she begins this new chapter.

We would like to thank Miss Tempelman for her dedication, commitment and hard work, and we wish her every success and happiness in the future. She will be greatly missed by learners, families and colleagues alike.

Water Safety Reminder

Stay Safe Near Water

Avon Fire & Rescue Service is encouraging everyone to stay safe around rivers, lakes, canals and the coast this summer. Key advice includes learning to “Float to Live” if you unexpectedly fall into water and always calling 999 if someone is in difficulty rather than entering the water yourself.

The guidance also highlights the importance of swimming in supervised areas, keeping children under close supervision, and being aware of hidden dangers such as cold-water shock, strong currents, deep water, submerged objects and water pollution.

Families are encouraged to learn about local river rescue cabinets and to use tools such as the What3Words app to help emergency services locate them quickly if needed. Avon Fire & Rescue Service also offers free water safety sessions for schools and youth groups.

For more information, visit the Avon Fire & Rescue Service Water Safety webpage.

Water Safety Advice

Sun & Heat Safety Reminder

With the warmer weather here, we want to ensure all learners stay safe and comfortable while enjoying the sunshine.

Please remember to bring:

- A hat to protect your head and face from the sun
- A refillable water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day
- Sun cream (SPF 30 or higher) to protect your skin

We encourage learners to apply sun cream before arriving and to reapply during the day as needed. Staff will also support regular water breaks and access to shaded areas.

Let's all enjoy the sunshine safely!

Looking After Family Wellbeing

We all need a little extra support from time to time. Whether you are facing challenges relating to family relationships, emotional wellbeing, financial pressures, or feeling unsafe at home, confidential advice and support are available.

If you would like support, the following organisations can help:

- National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Refuge) – 0808 2000 247 (24 hours)
- Women's Aid – www.womensaid.org.uk
- Men's Advice Line – 0808 801 0327
- Victim Support – 0808 168 9111 | www.victimsupport.org.uk
- NSPCC (concerns about a child) – 0808 800 5000

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence, please contact a member of the school's safeguarding team, who can offer support and help you access appropriate services.

The school is committed to supporting the wellbeing and safety of all members of our community.

Artificial Intelligence Tips for Parents

AI generated content and AI tools like chatbots, content generators and summaries are quickly appearing across popular online apps and services. There are also popular AI tools appearing like ChatGPT.

There can be many positives to the use of AI in helping to find information, making creative content and getting support quickly through chat functions. However, as with other areas of online use, it comes with risks to children as well.

For example, the content that children see might not be age appropriate, legal or promote healthy behaviours. They can also experience harms such as bullying and sexual abuse through the misuse of AI content generators to create realistic looking content intended to cause harm. (NSPCC)

NSPCC - AI Top Tips for Parents

Report Harmful Content

A national reporting centre that has been designed to assist anyone in reporting harmful content online.

UK Safer Internet - Reporting Harmful Content

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

Work Experience – Year 10

Monday 6th – Friday 10th July

A separate email with full details has been sent. Any queries or questions please email treynolds@belgraveschool.com

End of Year and Leavers' Assembly

Wednesday 22nd July | 11.30-12.30pm

More information will follow, but we hope you can join us as we celebrate the achievements of the year and wish our leavers well.

End of term

Friday 22nd May

The Big Future

National Children's Survey

We would like to make parents and carers aware of an important national survey led by the Children's Commissioner for England, **Dame Rachel de Souza**, called **The Big Future**.

The survey gives children and young people aged **0–18** the opportunity to share their views on what matters most to them, their hopes for the future, and what they believe makes a good childhood today. The findings will be used to influence decision-makers and advocate for positive change on issues that affect children across the country.

With more young people becoming eligible to vote in future elections, this survey is a valuable way for children's voices to be heard.

Parents and carers can support their child to take part by accessing the survey here:
👉 www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture

The survey closes on **Friday 23 October**. Participation is voluntary, but we strongly encourage families to consider supporting their child to share their views if they wish.

Thank you for your continued support.

Upcoming Inclusion & SEN Friendly Events in Bristol

- Activities for learners and young people with SEND
- Accessible events in Bristol
- Bristol Parent Carer Forum - Calendar of Inclusive Events in Bristol

Our Safeguarding Team

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