

HALF TERMLY SEND NEWSLETTER

In the newsletter this month





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Cyber Conference 2025 comes to Bristol in October



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Free Training: How to Empower Dyslexic Thinking in Schools

News updates

New Government Announcement – Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)



The PINS programme, or Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools, is a national initiative designed to enhance support for neurodiverse children in mainstream primary schools. It focuses on improving outcomes for these students by strengthening partnerships between schools and parent carers, and by upskilling school staff. The programme aims to create more inclusive and supportive learning environments for neurodiverse children and prevent the escalation of needs that might require more intensive interventions. Around 3000 children including those with conditions such as Autism, ADHD and Dyslexia will be better supported to achieve and thrive as the government extends this programme to boost attendance and behaviour by another year across 1,200 schools. Find out more here

OFSTED improve the way services for children and young people with SEND are inspected



Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) have published the outcome of a review of the way that local area services for children and young people with SEND are inspected. The aim of the review was to identify enhancements that could be made to the current inspection framework to help drive improvements in the SEND system, without diluting accountability. To carry out the review, Ofsted and CQC consulted stakeholders across the sector, including young people with SEND and their families, as well as inspectors themselves and colleagues at the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England. The report was published on the 6th June 2025 and you can read it here

EMA (Employ My Ability) announces a new partnership with Haven



Employ My Ability (EMA) is proud to announce a new partnership with Haven. This collaboration will give young people with SEND the chance to gain real-world work experience and take steps towards finding their future. Find out more here

News report from British Dyslexia Foundation (BDA)



The British Dyslexia Foundation have launched a new report – Mind the Gap: GCSE results and Dyslexia divide. In 2023/24, just 21.6% of students with dyslexia passed both English and Maths GCSE's at grade 5 or above – compared to 51.9% of their peers, and this gap hasn't changed over a decade. You can read the report here

The UniTasterDays Parents' Guide to University 2025



The Parents' Guide to University 2025 will help parents to support the young people in their lives to make an informed choice about university. Contributions have been provided by over 75 university representatives from across the UK, along with expert voices from outside the sector, including Martin Lewis from Money Saving Expert. The guide is supported by HELOA, a membership group for University advisers and is divided into sections to support parents and young people throughout every stage of the university journey, including how to overcome financial difficulty. Download the report here

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2026 dates announced!



National Apprenticeship Week 2026 will take place from 9th-15th February 2026. Read more about the plans for next year and watch the Schools and Colleges planning webinar by Amazing Apprenticeships here

Youth Employment Week (YEW): 7th-11th July 2025



Now in its 3rd year, Youth Employment Week (7–11 July 2025) is a nationwide campaign connecting young people to meaningful opportunities, and the people and programmes that support them. Download the Educators toolkit to access resources and helpful links to support your students: Youth Employment Week

Supported Internship opportunities with Shaw Trust

shaw trust

Young people aged 16-24 with an EHCP may be interested in a Supported Internship. Supported Internships provide young people with an opportunity to take their first steps into the world of work, through a mix of education and coaching in a range of different roles. To find out more about Supported Internships with Shaw Trust or to enquire click here.

Applications open for Design West's 'Shape my City' programme commencing in October 2025



Diversity in design means a diversity of experience, perspective and creativity. 'Shape my City' is an award-winning talent accelerator programme starting in October 2025 for creative 15-18 year olds from diverse backgrounds to learn about cities, design and placemaking. The programme runs for one year from October 2025-July 2026. Applications are now live! To find out more contact shankari.raj@designwest.org.uk or visit the website: Design West - Shape my City.

Online Work Experience opportunities



There are various online work experience opportunities available for students to complete over the summer break. Visit Springpod to search for opportunities such as work experience in Aviation and Aerospace, Women in Accounting, HR work experience with CIPD and Amazon TV production and many more!

Channel 4 also offer online work experience and more information can be found here: Channel 4 - 4skills work experience

Summer Jobs and Volunteering in the UK and abroad for students



The summer holidays are almost here. Students can gain some valuable work experience or earn money over the summer by exploring summer jobs or volunteering opportunities. Visit Student Job UK or to explore opportunities in the UK or Smaller Earth for opportunities abroad. Current organisations recruiting in the UK are: PGL Careers and Jobs at Parkdean Resorts. For volunteering opportunities students can visit their local council website for further information or visit Do It Volunteer.

Upcoming Events

Disability and Diversity at BAE Systems – Insight Experience – Wednesday 5th November 2025



Join this 90-minute webinar on the 5th November from 3-4.30pm for graduates and undergraduates to gain first-hand insight into some of the early careers available at BAE Systems, one of the UK's largest engineering employers. This webinar focuses on an overview of the different careers at BAE Systems, a spotlight into diversity and the unique journeys of some of their employees and find out how they support LGBTQ+, gender equality, mental and physical disabilities, and cultural and ethnic diversity. Register for the webinar here.

Dyselxia Discovery Week – Virtual Training Event: 28th-31st July 2025



Are you ready to make your classroom more dyslexia inclusive? Join the British Dyslexia Foundation for Dyslexia Discover Week, a four day virtual training event packed with tools and strategies to help teachers and support staff to understand and support dyslexic and neurodiverse students. To find out mor and register click here

Reminder: TES SEND Show 2025 – 10th – 11th October, Business Design Centre, London



The UK's leading SEND TES show is back to bring you more dedicated SEND content and specialist SEND suppliers. With over 100 exhibitors, CPD certified seminars from leaders in the SEND community and SEND leadership Summit, there is plenty to learn and opportunities to connect with the wider SEND community. To register your interest, click here

Cornwall & The Isles of Scilly Careers Hub – YouTube film for Careers Leaders



The Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly Careers Hub have a YouTube film available for Careers Leaders: **Be Curious- A Parent's Perspective for Learners with an additional need.** The careers hub approached a parent to talk about her experiences as a parent of a young person with cerebral palsy seeking employment. You can watch the film here. If you are a parent, employer or school and wish to find out more about the support available to young people with SEND, head over to Cornwall Opportunities and the Parent Hub SEND Showcase

New Podcast by the British Dyslexia Foundation – Talking Dyslexia



The British Dyslexia Foundation and Talamo have launched a new podcast called Talking Dyslexia (first episode launched on the 3rd June 2025). The podcast is hosted by Ellen Broome and Jamie Wace, whom speak with educators, parents, researchers, and dyslexic individuals to unpick the realities, debunk the myths and celebrate the strengths of thinking differently. This series offers practical advice, fresh perspectives and honest conversations. You can listen to the podcast on Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple or Google, or wherever you get your podcasts.

The Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH): Unfolding Autism International Conference – Thursday 2nd October 2025



The Association for Child and Adolescen Montal Health The Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH) are delivering a Webinar conference event on **Thursday 2nd October 2025 from 9am-4pm** via Zoom. This conference brings together leading experts to explore distinct yet interconnected topics: early detection, co-occurring mental health challenges, participatory approaches and evidence-based support for adolescents and young adults. With a focus on practical tools, emerging models and inclusive innovation, this conference is essential for professionals working to improve the outcomes for autistic children, teens and their families. Book your place here.

Amazing Apprenticeships – All about Apprenticeships: Planning for 2025/26



As we approach the new 2025/26 academic year, careers leaders are navigating numerous changes across the careers education landscape, including the conclusion of the ASK programme in July 2025, new statutory careers guidance, updated Gatsby Benchmarks, planned changes to work experience and all you need to know about the introduction of Foundation Apprenticeships. The webinar will also advise on planning for National Apprenticeship Week 2026. You can watch the webinar anytime here.

CyberCon 2025 Annual Conference for Computing at Watershed, Bristol, Tuesday 7th October 2025



The highly anticipated Bristol and Bath CyberCon 2025 Annual Cyber Conference is back for 2025! Held at the Watershed, Bristol on Tuesday 7th October, teachers and Careers Leads can expect a blend of workshops, panel debates, and industry-leading speakers. Find out more and book tickets here or email chris@techspark.co

Somerset Cyber Horizons Event (CyberFirst), BTC Bridgwater – Tuesday 11th November 2025



A day of hands-on workshops exploring all things Cyber for students in years 8-9, with industry partners such as Fortinet and Airbus already confirmed! The second year of Somerset Cyber Horizons will include a range of new and innovative activities to help students understand the careers and possibilities available to them. For more information click here or email chris@techspark.co

Recommended Websites & Resources

SEND Connect



If you are a SEND service provider, visit the SEND Connect website here and register to reach their growing community. SEND Connect are a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities directory. Explore the resources hub and sign up to the newsletter.

Unlock Cyber – new section of the website for girls



Unlock Cyber was created in 2018 to bring together employers, professional bodies, education providers and academia across the West of England region. Working collectively, they create, raise awareness and deliver cyber activities, resources and events for young people (age 11+) to help meet future skills needs. They now have a new section on the website for girls interested in Cyber careers with case studies, career pathways, events, activities and resources. Access the website here

Devon County Council: Watch a video about Supported Internships



In the last three years, more than 300 young people in Devon with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) have gained qualifications and work experience through government-funded supported internships, often leading to paid employment. Devon County Council would like to raise awareness of supported internships and support more people with EHCP's to gain the skills and experiences they need to gain paid employment. Devon County Council have produced a video about Supported Internships, and you can watch here

Ambitious about Autism – new online network for autistic young people



The Ambitious Youth Network is a new online app for autistic young people from Ambitious about Autism – an online space for autistic people between the ages of 13-25 to keep in touch on the go, connect, share experiences and access opportunities to advocate and improve the services for autistic young people. You can find out more about the network and how to access it here.

Autism Central – Education Choices: A guide for parents



Access this informative guide to help parents find the right school or educational setting for their child. It includes questions to consider and videos of parents talking about their own experiences. You can access the guide and other free resources here.

Made by Dyslexia – How to Empower Dyslexic Thinking in Schools training



Access this free training 'How to Empower Dyslexic Thinking in Schools' by Made by Dyslexia in partnership with the The Open University. Access the training here.

Free CV Review by FutureLearn and Top CV



Young people can boost their employability by taking advantage of this free CV review offered by FutureLearn and Top CV. Click here to get started!

Careers and Enterprise Company – Future Skills Questionnaire (FSQ)



The Future Skills Questionnaire (FSQ) by Careers and Enterprise Company is a useful tool which can be used to measure learners career readiness. Simple data insight from your learners' responses can help you to identify gaps in your provision, tailor career activities to individual needs, and measure progress of your careers programme over time. Access the resource here.

Autism Education Trust comprehensive guide: Positive Relationships between home and school



Autism Central have produced this comprehensive guide for parents to help establish positive relationships between home and school. Access it here. You can also access more guides and resources on the website: Autism Education Trust

Careers and Enterprise Company: Work Experience guides for SEND students



The West of England Careers Hub recently commissioned staff from Three Ways School to work with seven SEND schools to support and train the careers leaders in developing a local network of employers for work experience. As part of this, a range of editable resources were produced: SEND Work Experience guides for employers, school staff, students and parents. Click here to discover the resources available to you.

FutureSmart Careers Blog: The Sky is the Limit with a Career in Aviation



This month's blog "The Sky is the Limit with a Career in Aviation" explores the entry requirements and career pathways into this exciting and diverse field of work. Read it here

Get in touch

FutureSmart Essentials Package

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FutureSmart Careers offers a range of well-loved packages for schools but we can also tailor a plan to fit schools' needs exactly. Our FutureSmart Essentials package includes:

- A suite of downloadable resources
- 9-5 careers advice helpline
- Monthly newsletters with news, events and opportunities

Contact us



For all other enquiries, please contact our team at enquiries@futuresmartcareers.co.uk or give us a call on Tel: 0330 311 9509 We'd love to hear from you!

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