

# THE REDNOCK REVIEW

Term 3 – 2025/26

30th January 2026

Dear Rednock Community,

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the penultimate week of what has been a very wet Term 3! As always, I am pleased to share with you the latest edition of the Rednock Review. As January comes to an end and the days begin growing a little lighter, we look ahead to the remainder of the academic year with real optimism.

The past fortnight has been a busy and productive time for our students, with many events and achievements we are delighted to celebrate. Our Year 11 students, in particular, have shown great maturity and commitment following their mock examinations and recent mock interviews. They represented the school superbly, impressing a wide range of external visitors with their confidence, professionalism and positive attitudes. We were thrilled to host a Japanese School and share a cultural exchange. What a treat it was to welcome our visitors - seeing our amazing students and staff interacting so positively and a coming together of cultures was wonderful and a reminder of the unique value these exchanges bring - long may they continue!

Looking ahead, we have several key events approaching. On Tuesday 3rd February, our Year 11 students will take part in their whole year group photograph which will mark the final few terms together ahead of their exams. On Thursday, 5th February, we will host our annual Careers Fair, giving students the opportunity to engage with employers and explore future pathways.



[Click here to  
view a video  
from  
Mr Stratford](#)

Later that same day, we will welcome Year 9 students and their parents to our GCSE Options Evening, a very important event outlining subject choices and the options process for next year.

We look forward to welcoming many of you into school for these events. As always, should you require any advice or support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Wishing you all the very best for the final two weeks of term which ends on Friday 13th February.

My very best wishes,

Mike Stratford  
**Headteacher**



**Rednock School**  
Where everyone matters



## Achievement Heroes

Each week, we select new Achievement Heroes to celebrate. We've had some amazing nominees and we're proud of everything they've accomplished. They were recognised for different reasons, each one just as impressive as the last. Every nominee exemplifies what it means to be an Achievement Hero and we couldn't be prouder to shine a spotlight on their accomplishments.

This issue's Achievement Heroes are:

**Charlie**, for really pushing himself in lessons and making great academic progress.

**Holly**, for being selected for U21's Bristol City Football and playing against Leicester.

**Sakura**, for competing in the U15's age group in Cardiff in athletics. Sakura currently holds the British record for discus in her age group!

**Will**, for consistently performing well in his subjects and having over 99% attendance - a great role model for our younger students.

**Kacey**, for showing continued improvement on her attendance this year.

**Megan**, for having the highest word count in December

**Emilie**, for being a wonderful friend and supporting her friend when she was upset.

**Esther-Rose**, for showing an improved effort in lessons.

**Carla**, for helping out with a Primary Sports event on a very rainy day.

**Clara**, for helping out with a Primary Sports event on a very rainy day.

**Edward**, for really pushing himself which has earned him two badges this week!

**Poppy**, for being selected to play for the county in football against Devon.

**Sam**, for receiving the most reward points in Hubble this week.

**Lewis**, for continued good attendance.

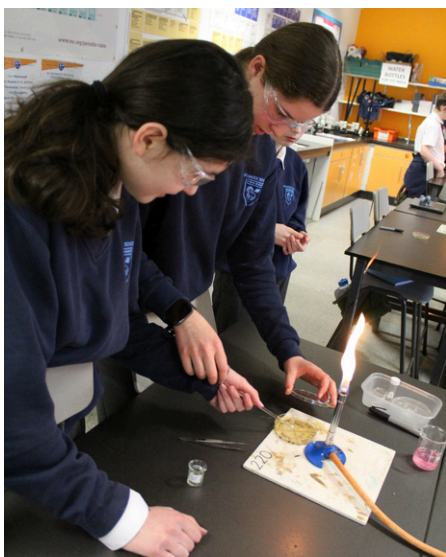
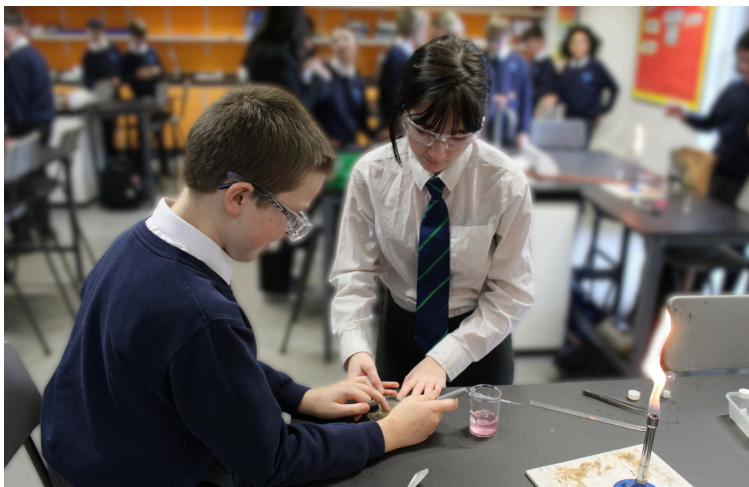


## Teaching and Learning Focus – Learning in Action

This week, Year 8 students in Mr Griffiths' science class were developing essential practical skills through a hands-on microbiology investigation. The lesson focused on aseptic technique – the careful methods scientists use to prevent contamination when working with micro-organisms. This is a fundamental skill in science and healthcare and one that requires both precision and understanding.

During the lesson, students followed a set of clear, sequenced instructions to ensure their investigation was carried out safely and accurately. They tested the effectiveness of three common antimicrobial treatments; tea tree oil, dettol and hand sanitiser, and learned not only how to carry out each step, but why each step was necessary. This included understanding the importance of sterilising equipment, controlling variables and working carefully to produce reliable results. By linking practical actions to scientific reasoning, students were encouraged to think like real scientists rather than simply following a recipe.

Practical science lessons like this play a vital role in preparing students for the future. Employers increasingly value skills such as attention to detail, following procedures, problem-solving, teamwork and safe working practices, all of which are developed through practical science work. Whether students go on to careers in science, healthcare, engineering or beyond, the ability to work methodically and understand processes is essential. Lessons such as this help build confidence, curiosity and resilience, showing students that science is not just something they learn about, but something they actively do.

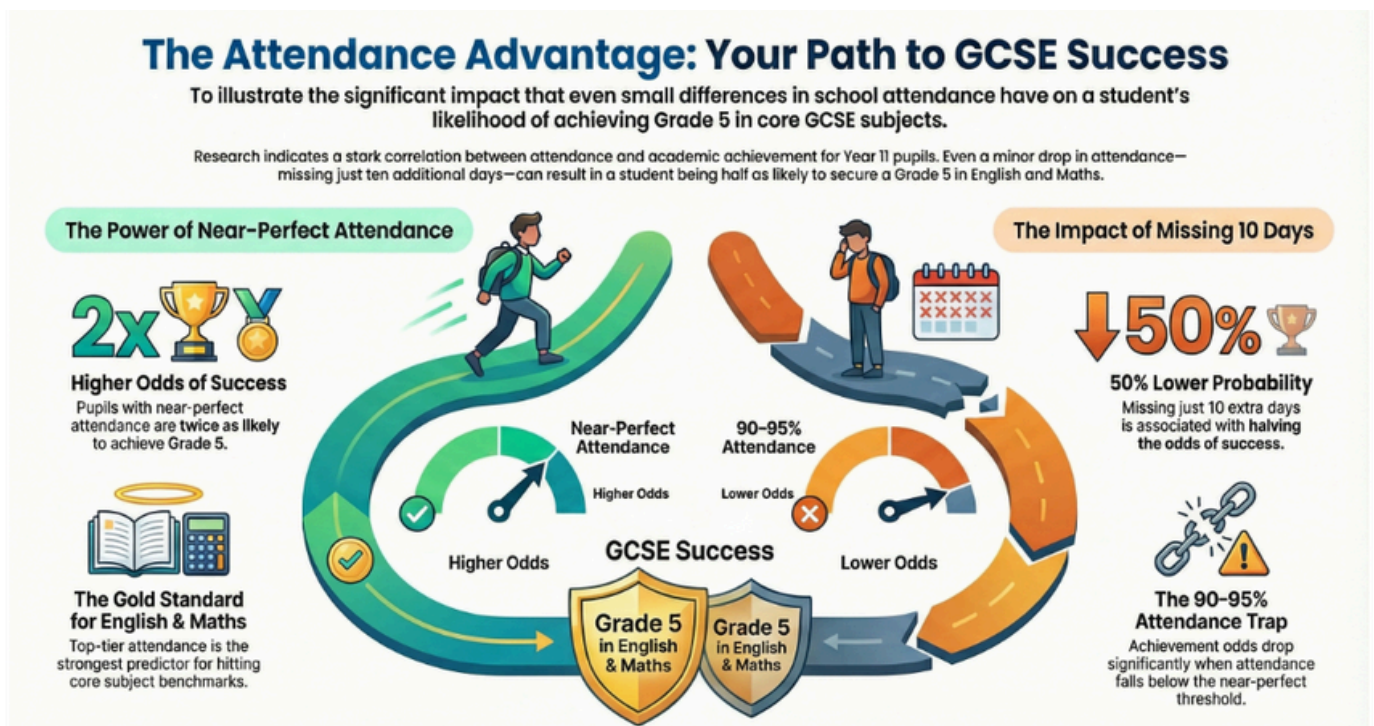




## Attendance Focus

Regular school attendance plays a crucial role in academic success, particularly in the lead-up to GCSEs. Evidence consistently shows that pupils who attend school every day are far more likely to achieve strong outcomes in English and Maths, while even short periods of absence can have a lasting impact on progress and confidence. The key message is clear: good attendance isn't just about being present, it's about giving every student the best possible chance to succeed.

Our next attendance support drop-in will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please come along if you need any support for your child's attendance.



## Jenner Tutor Groups Take on the Egg Drop Challenge

Jenner tutor groups recently faced the Egg Drop Challenge, tasked with protecting a raw egg dropped from the third floor using only paper, drinking straws and sticky tape. Students worked together to design creative structures, testing their ideas and learning from each attempt.

The challenge encouraged teamwork, problem-solving and creativity, with plenty of laughs along the way. A big thank you to the staff who helped supervise and make the event fun and safe. It was a brilliant way for Jenner tutor groups to come together and showcase their ingenuity!

You can view a video of a few of the drops [here](#).





## Welcoming Students From Japan

On Tuesday 27th January, we had an amazing opportunity to meet some Japanese students from KOEI VERITAS Junior and Senior High School. We watched a video about their school and what their day looks like. We then had the chance to ask the students some questions and play some games. We played Cat's Cradle, Kendama, which is a game with a swinging ball and the aim is to land the ball on the wooden stick. It was a fantastic day and we would definitely do it again.

*Written by Year 9 students Elsie and Lily*





## Year 7 Girls Football

The Year 7 girls football team took on Kingshill in a very evenly matched and well-contested fixture. For a number of the girls, this was their first competitive football match representing the school, and they rose to the challenge with confidence and determination. The girls created a couple of early opportunities in the first half and were unlucky not to take the lead. Kingshill capitalised on their chances, scoring once from a corner and once from open play. Despite this, the girls battled hard throughout the match. Kingshill eventually came out on top with a 2-0 win. Player of the Match, as nominated by the opposition, was Dotty, who produced an outstanding performance in goal, making several incredible diving saves. A fantastic effort from all the girls, and the team now look ahead positively to their next fixture against KLB next term.



## Under 14's Girls Football

Over the last week, there has been further success in the small-sided District football tournaments for both our Under 16 and Under 14 girls' football teams. Both teams performed exceptionally well, outplaying schools from across the district, and have progressed to the next round of the competition. The teams will go on to represent Stroud and Cotswold District Schools at the county tournament, which will be held at Cirencester Town Football Club. The Under 16 team will compete in this competition on Monday 2nd February.





## Girls' Primary School Football Festival

Some of our Year 12 students recently took on the role of officials at a girls' primary school football festival, welcoming teams from several local primary schools. Throughout the day, the students demonstrated excellent leadership, communication and professionalism as they refereed matches and supported players. Their positive attitude and enthusiasm helped create an inclusive, enjoyable environment for all participants, while also providing valuable role-model experiences for the younger pupils. The event was a great success and a fantastic example of our community working together.



## Under 13's Girls Cricket

We were pleased to welcome Stroud High School for a competitive and enjoyable cricket fixture against our Under 13 girls team. Despite a spirited performance and plenty of enthusiasm from our players, we were unable to secure a win on this occasion. The team showed great determination throughout the match, supporting one another well and demonstrating improving skills in both batting and fielding. The experience gained from the fixture will be valuable as our players continue to develop and grow in confidence. Well done to all involved for their effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship.





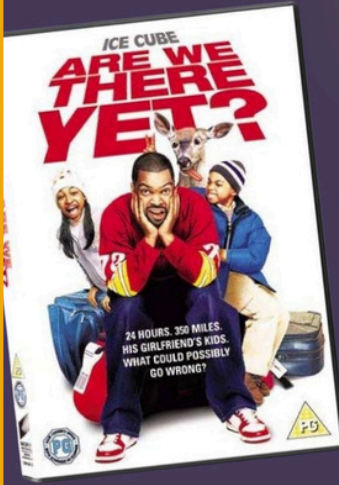
### **Under 14's Girls Football Against Farmors**

The Girls Under 14 11-a-side team put in a determined performance against a strong Farmor's School side, but unfortunately came away with a 2-0 defeat. Despite defending well for long periods and showing good organisation and teamwork, Farmor's managed to capitalise on two key moments to secure the win. Our players showed resilience, commitment and a positive attitude right to the final whistle, continuing to battle and support one another. Although the result didn't go our way, the performance provided valuable experience and plenty of positives to build on for future fixtures.

### **Under 18's Netball**

Our Under 18's Netball Team put in a determined performance against a strong Marling side but narrowly lost 15-12 in a closely contested match. The first two quarters finished with an even scoreline, reflecting how competitive and evenly matched the game was early on. Defensively, the team were strong throughout, applying consistent pressure and forcing turnovers against a well-organised Marling side. The girls were made to work hard both in and out of possession, and when opportunities to put a shot up arose, they were often taken successfully. Despite the narrow defeat, they showed resilience, teamwork and commitment against a strong opposition.





# FILM NIGHT

For Years 8 + 9

Thursday 12th February  
5.15pm - 7.15pm

Tickets available on  
ParentPay until 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

## Film Night

Years 8 and 9 are invited to attend a Film Night on Thursday 12th Feb from 5.15 - 7.15 pm in the main school hall.

£1.50 per ticket which will get some popcorn to enjoy whilst watching the film 'Are we there yet?'

Tickets are available on Parent Pay until 12pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February - please note that a ticket must be pre-ordered and they cannot be purchased on the door.

### Why Reading for Pleasure Is Urgent Right Now

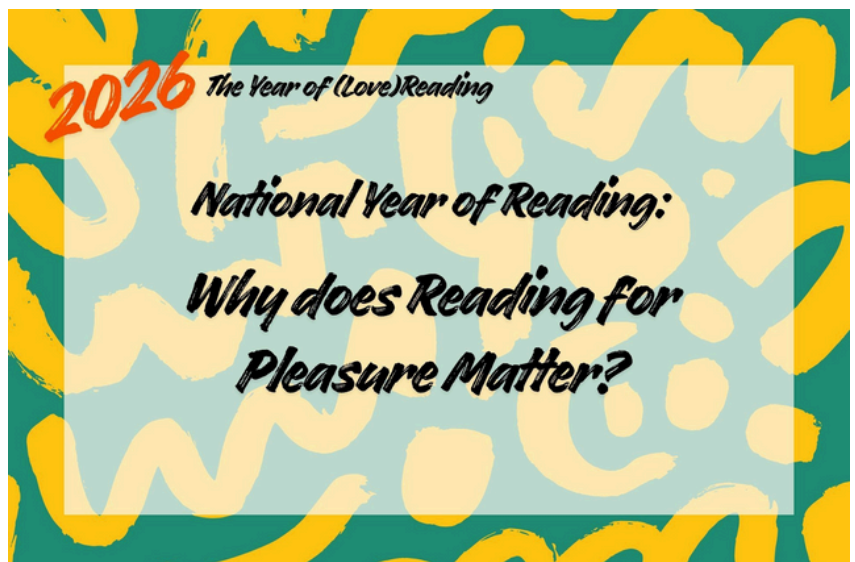
Reading for pleasure isn't just about literacy skills - it's linked to improved vocabulary, greater empathy, higher wellbeing and stronger life outcomes.

We know reading is far more than a hobby. It's a foundation for confidence, wellbeing, curiosity and lifelong learning. But in the UK, reading enjoyment is at a critical crossroads, and there has never been a more important moment to champion the joy of books. The power of reading. The utter joy that reading a brilliant book brings.

The UK government and the National Literacy Trust have launched the [National Year of Reading 2026](#). The core message is simple but powerful:

**“If you're into it,  
read into it.”**

There are hundreds of books in the LRC linked to out-of-school hobbies and interests - please encourage your child to come and find a book about them.





## Photographer in Residence Announced

Congratulations to Emily, a Year 12 Photography student who has successfully secured the position of Photographer in residence for the Centenary year of the Chantry Centre in Dursley.

Built as the social club for the hundreds of Lister's employees in the town in 1926, "Listers Hall" now known as the Chantry Centre is 100 years old this year. A year-long programme of activities is planned to mark this milestone and raise the profile of both the history of the building and the multitude of community activities currently taking place there.

The celebrations kicked off this month with a launch party at the Chantry Centre and Emily was there to document the occasion. You can see a few of her favourite shots below, where you can also spot the Mayor wearing the gown designed by Year 8 student Alfie, which was featured in the last Rednock Review.

A quote from Photographer in residence, Emily:

*"I really enjoyed the launch event and thought it went extremely well. There was a great atmosphere throughout, and it was a pleasure to capture those moments."*





### Rednock Remembered

Today's Rednock Remembered looks back over the school buildings that have housed secondary students in Dursley over the years. Rednock School has a long and proud history that reflects the changing landscape of education in the local community. The school first began life as Dursley Grammar School (top left), which opened its doors in 1921 and provided academic education for students in the area. As educational provision expanded, Dursley Secondary Modern School (top right) was established in 1949, offering an alternative pathway for students with different strengths and interests.

In 1971, these two schools came together to form a single comprehensive school known as Rednock School (bottom left). New school buildings were constructed on the original grammar school site, bringing students and staff together into one united school community. This marked an important milestone in Rednock's development and its commitment to inclusive education for all.

Continuing to evolve, Rednock School moved into a new purpose-built building (bottom right) in 2009, designed to support modern teaching and learning. This building remains in use today and stands as a symbol of the school's ongoing growth, adaptability and dedication to providing high-quality education for future generations.





## New Escape Room Design

A very talented group of Rednock students have joined forces with Charlie from the Escape Room Dursley, to design a new escape room to celebrate 100 years of The Chantry Centre.

Every Monday after school the group meet in Dursley to plan the new room and find ingenious ways to create puzzles based on the lives of an apprentice at Listers. Pulling together elements of the history of Listers as a major employer in Dursley and the role of the Chantry centre in the town, the students are dreaming up a narrative for the escape room.

So far the team have played one of the existing rooms and analysed the way the puzzles link together and looked at the importance of creating an atmosphere.

In just 3 sessions they have visited the space in the Chantry centre to see where the new escape room will be housed, made structural plans for the space, designed the room set and have started devising the puzzles and play plan. With input from Dursley Code Club students, this is shaping up to be an amazing project.



## Cam and Dursley Creatives Shout Out

A huge thank you to Cam and Dursley Creatives who have agreed to donate £300 to our Little Mermaid school production to hire a luton van to borrow set from All Saints School in Cheltenham.

Their generosity and support will ensure the show will look spectacular!

You can find out more about this wonderful group [here](#).

CAM & DURSLEY  
**Creatives**



## Year 11 Mock Interviews

Recently, Year 11 students took part in mock interviews designed to prepare them for future college, apprenticeship and job interviews. This experience provided a realistic insight into formal interview settings and helped students develop important skills that will be useful beyond school.

For many students, this was their first experience of a professional interview environment. From making a good first impression to answering challenging questions, the mock interviews encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones. They learned how to speak confidently about their strengths, interests and future ambitions, as well as how to respond thoughtfully to unexpected questions.

One of the most valuable aspects of the experience was the feedback provided by the interviewers. Constructive advice on communication skills, body language and interview answers helped students recognise their strengths and identify areas for improvement. This guidance increased students' confidence and made future interviews feel less intimidating.

The school would like to extend sincere thanks to all the interviewers who generously gave their time to support the Year 11 students. Their professionalism and encouragement made the experience both informative and reassuring. By sharing their knowledge and experience, the interviewers played an important role in helping students understand what employers and colleges are looking for.





# CAREERS CORNER



## What would you like to do?

Interested in law? Take a look at Prime Commitment ([here](#)) for inspiring opportunities.

Curious about the film industry? Have you considered what different careers might be involved behind the scenes? How about approaching Snow Business in Stroud, which makes artificial snow for film sets?

And don't forget to check the list of last year's employers on the wall outside office 125.

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## Get out there!

Don't forget that any work experience is good work experience. You don't need the perfect placement for it to be valuable and, after all, your future career will likely be a portfolio of different jobs and sectors.

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## THE WORK EXPERIENCE COUNTDOWN IS ON!

*Year 10 students should now be thinking about their work experience week, taking place from 8th–12th June 2026. Whether you already have a career in mind or you have no idea, this is a great chance to try something new, build confidence and gain real world experience. This is something that employers say time and again that they want to see in candidates applying to work for them.*

*We would like everyone to have found and agreed a placement by February half term (think Valentine's Day!). Please remember that students must agree their placement with an employer before entering their details on Unifrog, and of course names and contact details must be spelt correctly, or the system won't work. Virtual work experience is also available via Springpod and can mostly be accessed at any time. This is a great additional option, but it does not replace the Year 10 face-to-face work experience week.*

*Now's the time to explore, ask questions and get organised – good luck!*



### Lost Property

Lost property is now available for students to collect from the main reception. If a student has misplaced any items, please ask them to visit reception to check.

To help us return items quickly, it's a great idea to label uniforms and personal items such as water bottles (often found in PE), as named items can be returned immediately when they are found.



## Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
03/02/2026	Year 11	Year 11 School Photographs
05/02/2026	All students	Careers Fair
05/02/2026	Year 9	KS4 Options Evening
06/02/2026	Year 12	Year 12 Reports due home
12/02/2026	Year 8	Year 8 Reports due home
13/02/2026	All	End of Term 3
23/02/2026	All	Start of Term 4 (Week B)



# JET AGE MUSEUM

**SPECIAL HALF TERM OPENING**  
**WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2026**  
**10.00AM TO 4.00PM**



Meteor Business Park,  
 Cheltenham Road East,  
 Gloucester GL2 9QL  
 Tel 01452 260078

**ADMISSION FREE**  
**DONATIONS WELCOME**

## WHATS ON FEBRUARY HALF TERM... Holiday Drop-in fun

Kids Stuff will be hosting themed **daily craft tables and activities** throughout the Half term holiday:  
 Tuesday 17th - Saturday 21st February | 10am-12:30pm

- Tuesday 17th Pop-Out Sale: 10am-2pm**  
 Half term Pop-out sale. Activity/entertainment - focused sale featuring toys, sports equipment, puzzles and games.
- Tuesday 17th Craft Table: 10am-12:30pm**  
**Dandelion thumb print picture**
- Wednesday 18th Craft Table: 10am-12:30pm**  
**Clay candle holder**
- Thursday 19th Craft Table: 10am-12:30pm**  
**Seed planting**
- Friday 20th Craft Table: 10am-12:30pm**  
**Fluffy rock pet**
- Saturday 21st: 10am-12:30pm**  
**Sticker making**
- Saturday 21st: 10am-12:30pm**  
**World Book Day - Costume Corner**  
 Get set for World Book Day on 5th March. Come shop and play dress-up at our costume and fancy dress corner.
- All Offered: Drop-in Join-in, Pay-As-You-Can**  
 If you enjoy our activities and are able to, please pop a donation in the pot at the till or donate online. This helps us provide more sessions to support local families. Thank you!

No booking required. Activities subject to change. Children must be supervised.

**The Long Table** The Long Table will provide **pay-as-you-can jacket potatoes** throughout the February half-term holiday. Lunchtimes daily | 12-2pm  
 All event details here: [www.strouddistrictkidsstuff.org.uk](http://www.strouddistrictkidsstuff.org.uk)  
 Find us at: Brimscombe Mills, Brimscombe, Stroud, GL5 2QN

**Teaching**   
Every Lesson Shapes a Life

**Undergraduate Internships now open for applications!**

Undergraduate summer internships are now open for applications!

If you're an undergraduate (2nd year or above) or a Masters student interested in teaching, the 3 week summer teaching internship, based in schools in Gloucestershire, could be just for you!

To apply, you'll need to be studying one of the following subjects:

- Maths
- Chemistry
- Computing
- Modern Languages
- Physics
- Design Technology
- 

Check out our website to find out more or to apply now:

[Undergraduate internship | Start Your Teaching Journey Today](#)  
[— Odyssey Teaching School Hub](#)

# ND Identity THRIVE Together

Are you aged 11 - 14?

**Unlock Your Potential:** Join Our Neurodivergent Workshop Are you ready to embrace your unique strengths and connect with like-minded individuals? Join us for an inspiring journey at our Neurodivergent Workshop! Whether you thrive in creativity, problem-solving, or innovative thinking. This is the space to shine!

**Friends - Games - Snacks**

- Fun activities designed to harness your talents
- Opportunities to collaborate with peers
- Strategies for personal growth and success
- Supportive environment celebrating neurodiversity

**Who Can Join?**

Anyone identifying as neurodivergent, eager to explore new ideas and make meaningful connections.

**Wednesdays**  
 3:45-5:45pm  
 February 4<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>  
 March 4<sup>th</sup> 2026

**For more details, contact [dawnhalls@gl11.org](mailto:dawnhalls@gl11.org).**