



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

26th May 2022



MESSAGE FROM NIKKI BURROUGHS, EXECUTIVE HEAD



For a relatively short half term, we have certainly packed a lot in! The Ten Tors event was a huge success and all our students were wonderful ambassadors for our schools. They were all far braver than me, camping out overnight and walking for miles and miles setting off at the crack of dawn. A real accomplishment and something for them all to be proud of. I am sure you will all join me in sending huge thanks to all those who supported the event,

especially the staff that gave so willingly of their weekend. A truly emotional experience for everyone.

We have also had a number of different trips taking place this half term and it has been fantastic to see students engaging in such a variety of work experience opportunities. We have had a number of students participating in Football and Rugby tournaments, and Ellen Tinkham School really enjoyed the Football Factory visit.

At both Bidwell Brook School and Ellen Tinkham College, we have been working on the development of our Careers Hubs and we are really excited to be launching them next term.

Last weekend, I had the delight of attending the Dartington Extravaganza. And what an Extravaganza it was! We were thrilled for our Taiko Drummers to be asked to perform and what a wonderful performance they put on, receiving rapturous applause and even shouts for an encore! I was SO proud of them all, seeing the joy on their faces, how confident they were as individuals but also how superbly they worked as a team was testimony to the hard work they have all put in.

I cannot believe that when we return after the break we will be in the final half term of another academic year. As the saying goes 'Time flies when you're having fun'.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 6th June 2022.



SHORT OF TIME?

Work Experience/Enterprise - Lots of questions on page 2! Can you help at all?

Devon's Ofsted Visit - Thanks if you completed the survey.

Bursary Letter - If you have received a form to complete, please return it asap.

Devon SEND Local Offer - Link to the website on page 2.

Totum Cards - Opportunity for 6th Form students to apply on page 4.

VAT on School Uniform - Sign a petition on page 4 to remove VAT from school clothing.

School Uniform - Non Branded Items - We encourage everyone (except FE) to wear school uniform, but are just as happy if learners prefer to arrive at school in their own clothes, ready to learn! If you wish, you can buy non-branded uniform for your child to wear. Page 4.

Makaton Signs - Page 5.

Exeter Mobility - Visiting 21st June, call to book a slot.

HAF Programme - Page 5.

Jubilee Bunting, Flags, left over paper plates etc - If you have any Jubilee paraphernalia left over after your home celebrations, could you send them in w/c 6th June? Thanks!

Careers Hub - We've set up a new Careers Hub. Page 5.

Labour Market Info - Page 6.

Courses & E-Safety Info - Page 7 onwards.

DATES 2022 (please check future newsletters, just in case we need to move a date or two!)

w/c 30th May	Half term holiday
Monday 6th June	Learners return to school
w/c 6th June	British History/Kings & Queens/British Values week
Friday 10th June	Street Party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
6th - 10th June	Residential trip for selected pupils in KS2
Wednesday 15th June 2022	Tempest Photography visiting Upper School
Thursday 16th June 2022	BB PTFA Meeting (to continue planning for the Summer Fete)
Monday 20th / Tuesday 21st June	Ladybirds Parents' Evenings (invite will be sent nearer the time)
20th - 24th June	School's Respect and Diversity Week
6th - 12th July	Jessie's Fund visiting BB to work with students and staff
Friday 8th July	BB Summer Fete, NOW 1.30 pm - 2.45 pm
Thursday 21st July	BB Prom
Thursday 21st July	BB PTFA meeting at 11 am
Tuesday 26th July	Leavers' Assembly
Wednesday 27th July	Last day of term for pupils and staff



EVERYONE WILL BE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE; EVERYONE HAS A VOICE; NO-ONE IS EXCLUDED



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WORK EXPERIENCE / ENTERPRISE / INITIATIVES

Some questions for you!

1. Do you own or work at a company or have contacts with companies who would be able to support our older students to carry out work experience placements?
2. Do you own or know of a company or a contact who would be willing to sponsor a student for work experience? eg Help with their travel costs or maybe a piece of kit they need?
3. Do you have a trade or a professional specialism that you think might be good for our students to hear about? Would you like to visit College and talk to our students, perhaps inspire them so they can follow in your footsteps one day?
4. Do you own or work for a company where your by-products could actually be used for something else?! eg you have empty wooden cable reels which could be upcycled to become a beautiful coffee table as part of our Enterprise work? Anything else you think might be interesting to us?

If you can answer



to any of the above, we would love to hear from you! Please email admin@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk in the first instance. We will read all emails and depending on the responses we receive, will come back to you.

If we are inundated with emails, we might take a little while in responding so please bear with us! THANK YOU.

DEVON'S OFSTED VISIT

Thank you if you completed the Family Survey in advance of Devon County Council's Ofsted and CQC visit.

As soon as we receive an update from their visit, we will share this with you.



BURSARY LETTERS

Selected families have been sent a Bursary letter and information. Please see our [website](#) for further information and send completed forms back to us asap.

Thank you.

DEVON'S SEND LOCAL OFFER!



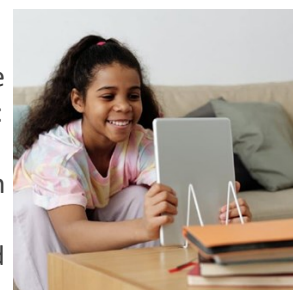
Devon Council Council's SEND Local Offer is here to help and support you. We want to make it as easy as possible for you to find all the information you need about the services that are available in your area.

A local offer gives children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families information to help them find the right help and support in their area. It has two main purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available.
- To make provision more responsive to local needs.

The Local Offer brings together information about education, health and care services, voluntary agencies, leisure activities and support groups in one place. It includes:

- **Education** – support in early years, schools and college, including Transport.
- **Health** – specialist clinics, support and advice for children and young people with medical needs.
- **Social care** – support for personal care and practical assistance, short breaks and personal budgets.
- **Transitions** – moving between phases of education and preparing for adulthood.
- **Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)** – the statutory EHCP process explained, including applying for a plan, transfers and reviews.
- **Information, advice and support** – where to get impartial and confidential information, advice and support.



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SOME PHOTOS FROM TEN TORS - JUBILEE CHALLENGE



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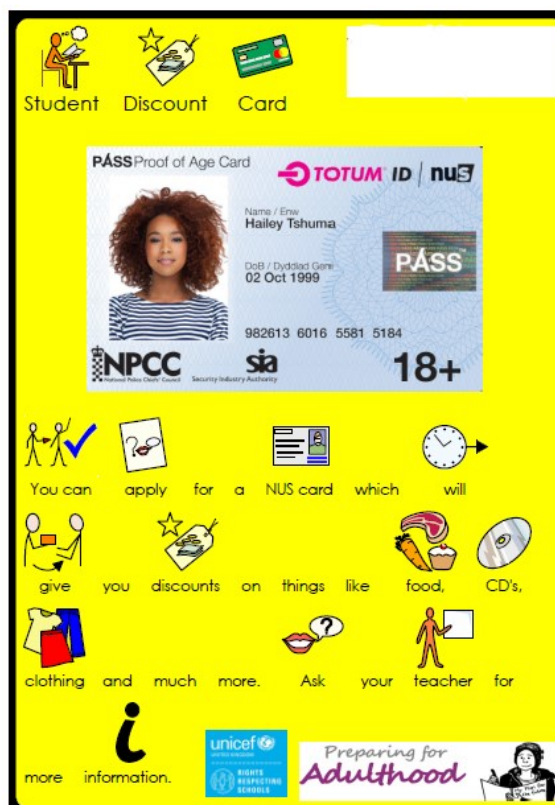
6TH FORM STUDENTS CAN APPLY FOR A TOTUM CARD

All students in our 6th Form can apply for a Totum Card. What's a Totum Card? Totum is an all-new NUS student discount card and app which offers savings with over 200 UK organisations and at 42,000 worldwide destinations.

The Totum card is available to all students aged 16 years and over. The cost is £14.99 a year but there are significant discounts with major shopping brands such as ASOS, Boots, boohooMan and Puma. To sign up to the Totum card, follow the link or find out more from your Class Teacher. [TOTUM | The #1 UK Student Discount Card and App](#)



TOTUM is the only student discount, proof of age ID and campus life card and platform recommended by the National Union of Students.



SCHOOL UNIFORM - VAT

VAT is currently levied on garments based on a table of measurements aimed at children aged 14 years and older, as this is when the body dimensions begin to merge with those of the general adult population. At present, there is no specific relief for items of school uniform, they are subject to the normal rules for children's clothes.

The Schoolwear Association is working hard to campaign against the VAT charged on school uniform and have launched a petition to call the Government to act. They need 10,000 signatures to gain a response.

Abolishing VAT on school uniforms would be an important step in helping families to meet the cost of uniforms, especially after what has been a difficult year. Each family would make significant savings over their child's schooling years, at a relatively low cost to the taxpayer.

If you are interested in removing VAT from school uniform, the petition can be found via the link below.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/614214>

SCHOOL UNIFORM - NON BRANDED ITEMS

At Bidwell Brook, we encourage students to wear our school uniform. Wearing a uniform places a pupil in a 'working environment' mindset and helps them separate their home and school life. It also puts children on a level playing field, reducing the pressure to wear the latest fashionable brands etc.

Learning can also be messy sometimes, so it is best students do not wear expensive clothing into school.

We do appreciate however, that some pupils cannot tolerate and refuse to wear a uniform and for these learners, we would much rather they attend school wearing comfy clothing of their choice! Our FE students do not need to wear a uniform in recognition of their age and privileges.

For everyone else, our school uniform can be purchased [here](#). We try to keep our uniform cost as low as possible, and are very happy if you wish to purchase supermarket brands/similar plain white polo shirts or plain blue sweatshirts/cardigans etc as an alternative.

We are also currently exploring the cost of producing embroidered BB badges for families to purchase and sew onto clothing. We'll keep you posted!

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MAKATON

This week we have two signs, 'please' and 'thank you'. These are words and signs we use every day with our pupils, however they are easily confused as they are very similar.

[makaton sign for please and thank you - isabella signs - YouTube](#)



IT'S A WANT PLEASE, IF YOU CAN

At the end of your own Jubilee Celebrations at home, if you have any bunting, flags, left over paper plates etc, please could you send them into school for our own Jubilee Celebrations week commencing 6th June?



EXETER MOBILITY CLINIC AT BB

Exeter Mobility will be holding a wheelchair clinic at Bidwell Brook School on Tuesday 21st June 2022.

Please could you let Raegan Hunt, Therapy Assistant know if you would like your child to have an appointment at the clinic.

Tel: 01803 864120 (option 4)



DEVON HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME

The aim of the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is to support children to eat more healthily, be more active over the school holidays and have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition as well as be more engaged with school and other local services. There are 69 providers to offer fully funded places on HAF approved Holidays Schemes.

****Please note to access the programme children must be eligible for benefit related free school meals.****

Click here to find out more:

<http://soc.devon.cc/8x4lf> or

<http://soc.devon.cc/XTes9>



CAREERS HUB

As you may have seen on our Facebook page, we've created a brand new "Careers Hub" at school to promote a greater understanding of careers and open access to work for our young people.

There are a selection of uniforms to try on during role play sessions and also for in-house work experience, plus plenty of career resources to explore. Helen Boon, our Work Experience Co-Ordinator is on hand to provide support and is always interested to hear from local people who can visit and talk about their job. The Careers Hub will help develop a great working relationship with disability confident employers, families and teachers to create a blended approach to support our students in their pathways of careers, inclusive traineeships and apprenticeships alongside the curriculum.

Our local CSW team (previously known as Careers South West) will be invited to book sessions in the Hub to support our students as part of the restart programme and we will be building greater links in school with Job Centre Plus.



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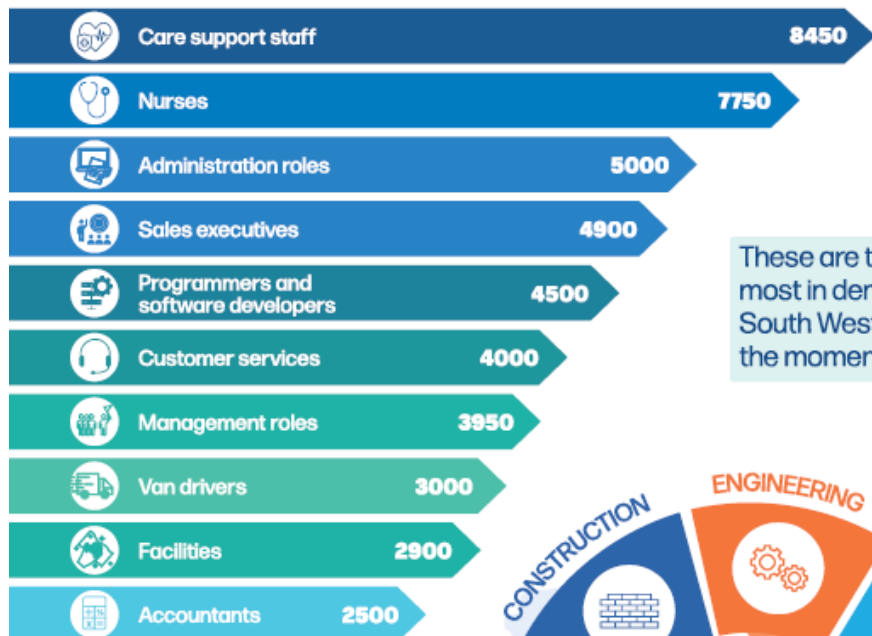


LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

The Labour Market Information (LMI) indicates the job roles most in demand in the South West region at this moment. It helps us to know the current trends and future requirements, informs our Careers & Enterprise Programme and curriculum, ensuring we are teaching the right skills and knowledge that can be transferred to the world of work.

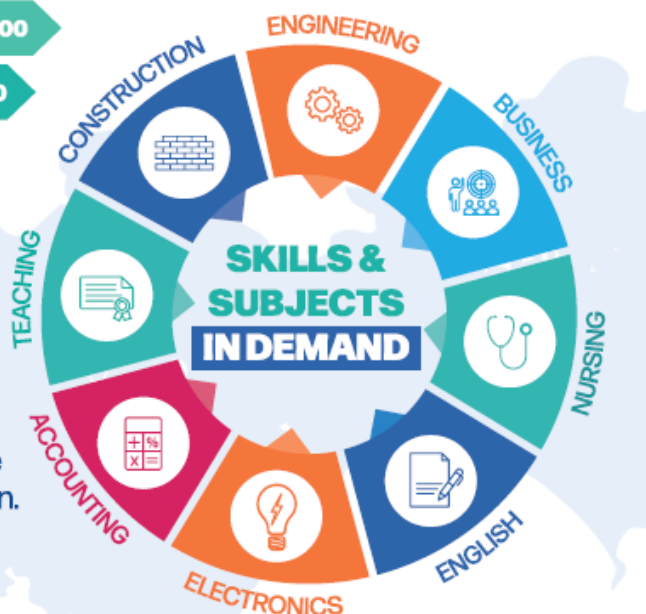
Labour Market Information Heart of the South West

ROLES IN DEMAND



These are the job roles most in demand in the South West region at the moment.

Current trends and future requirements in the labour market indicate that these subject/skill areas will be in demand in the South West region.



THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

Heart of the South West LMI Data | May 2022

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LET'S TALK TEENAGERS - FREE ONLINE COURSE



Free support sessions for parents and carers



Have you got teenagers? Join us online for a chat about some of the challenges young people are facing today, and find out what tools you can use to support them.

We'll be running sessions throughout June, covering topics such as:

- drugs and alcohol
- body image
- safety online
- mental health
- social risks
- peer pressure



Weekly 90 minute sessions starting at 7.00pm



Visit **devon.cc/teenagers** to find out more about each session and book your free place.





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ONLINE SAFETY - THINK POSTER

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Is it harmful?

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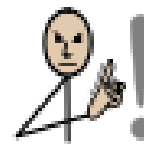
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Is it illegal?

N

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Is it necessary?

K

?



Is it kind?



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AND FINALLY

From next half term,
please could your child/
young person bring in
each day a named
bottle of suncream, a
water bottle and a
sun hat or cap?

THANK YOU

