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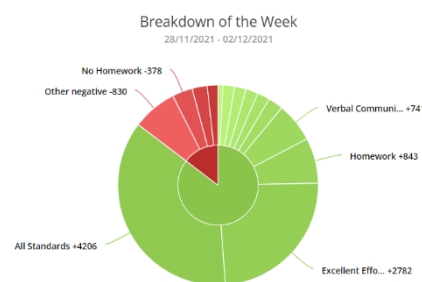
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Weekly Newsletter – 03.12.21

Hello! مرحباً! Ahoj! Ola! Dzień dobry! Salut! Hello!

Believe:

This week we are very proud of the spirit shown our staff and pupils. Some pupil examples include our Y7 football team who showed great resilience this week and our Y11's who made an excellent first impression in their mock interviews. Mr. Gill received a silver teacher award for his outstanding provision during the pandemic and Mr. Smith co-ordinated our annual donations to Cardiff Foodbank. We are very proud of our school community and the good character demonstrated by the majority within it.



Merits – 29.11.21 – 02.12.21:

We are incredibly proud of the effort that our pupils are putting into their character and studies. A huge Willows well done to all of this week's merit winners:

Year Group	Total	Excellent Effort	Merit Champions
Year 7	2771	7Curie	Ieuan Jenkins and Gertrude Tsohuka
Year 8	2041	8Farah	Caleb Jennings
Year 9	2126	9De Beauvoir	Jacob Johnson
Year 10	1733	10Schumann	Shaida Tufiq
Year 11	1163	11Matisse	Mihai Patrascu

School News:

Award Winning Teacher:

Congratulations to Mr. Gill who recently attended the Pearson Teaching Award Ceremony in London for his excellent work with our English as an Additional Language pupils during the school closures and beyond. Mr. Gill received a prestigious silver award and we know that all of the pupils and staff, who have worked with him over the last year and a half, agree that he is an outstanding new teacher and a great asset to Team Willows.

PE Department:

A huge well done to the Y7 football team who have made great progress this week. Although losing 3 - 1 to Cathays High, the team showed great improvements and are up for their next challenge. We praise their resilience and spirit!

Careers:

We were delighted to receive the following feedback from Careers Wales for our Y11's after their recent mock interviews:

'We were very impressed with the maturity and professionalism of the pupils at Willows High School. Most of them walked in quite shy which showed they really cared and treated the exercise seriously. By the time they left the interview, they were confident, chatty and thinking about their future careers.

Top work, Willows!'

(Zoe Rushton – Talent Executive, BBC Studios)

'I was really impressed with the pupils I interviewed – they were not only polite and well presented, but showed (through their body language) that they were fully engaged and interested in the interview, leaving a positive lasting impression on me as interviewer. Well done all. I wish you all every success for the future - I've no doubt you will all achieve your ambitions. Thank you to the School and Careers Wales for inviting Cardiff Council to be involved.'

(Caroline Davies – Corporate Apprentice and Trainee Scheme Manager, Cardiff Council)

Genius Hour (First Give Charity):

Congratulations to 8 Markova for showing team-work, creativity and kindness when raising awareness and donations for the Cardiff East branch of the Salvation Army for Genius Hour in the First Give project. The pupils enjoyed throwing wet sponges at a variety of staff – all of whom embraced the experience in the interests of charity! Da iawn pawb!

Extra-Curricular Activities:

The animé manga club had a Japanese food tasting session on Monday afterschool. There were crispy fried gyozas, chicken katsu strips, a flavourful yaki soba and of course, a tray of mouth-watering sushi. It was an amazing experience for the club members, where they were able to try authentic dishes from Japan. There were plenty of food to have seconds and for the students to take home for their family to try. Some of our Willows staffs also popped in to have a bite or more! We couldn't have asked for a better way to start of the week.



"It was fun to have all my friends in one place and the food miss gave us was the food I have always wanted to eat from anime."

- **Rabec, Year 10**

"The food was nice. I hope one day we get to try Japanese sweets."

- **Jessica, Year 7**

"Anime club is amazing so far and the food tasting was amazing! I think they all really enjoyed it."

- **Megan, Year 7 (AMC President)**

Join AMC to have anime manga talks, learn Japanese culture, and meet new friends from all year groups. You can find us in G18, every Monday after school, 3.30-4.30pm.

Newsletter Competition Winners:

A massive 'Willowstastic' Shout Out to the following pupils for their correct entries in last week's fictional castle competition: Chloe Edwards, Josphe Ashton, Patrik Ziga, Mercy Agunbiade, Kane Williams, Aparajita Hota, Zaydin Tsim, Amy Power, Hope Allen, Kayden Allen, Noah Roberts (x2)

Health and Well-being:

Period Dignity:

In a few weeks, we will be feeding back the results of last term's pupil and parent 'period questionnaire' in assemblies. If you do not wish your child to take part in this, please e-mail their Welfare Officer to let them know and alternative arrangements will be made.

Your health matters at Willows!

Dr. Anwar advises on how to have yourself a merry COVID-safe Christmas



As we start planning and preparing for the festive holiday season, we must consider how we can all celebrate in a COVID-safe manner. The recently identified Omicron variant has reignited concern, and with the World Health Organisation warning the variant poses a very high global risk, it is now more important than ever that we adhere to the guidance provided by the Welsh Government. With few detected cases in the UK, and with little known about its severity and how effective the current vaccine is, the guidance may change over

the coming weeks. You can view the guidance and keep updated at <https://gov.wales/coronavirus> or by scanning the QR code below using your phone camera.

For now COVID is under control and many of us will want to celebrate big this Christmas. As we get into the festive spirit, over the coming weeks I will share tips on how to have a happy healthy Christmas. However, it is still important we remain vigilant during this period. To keep yourself and Wales safe:



- **get both of your jabs**
- if you have symptoms, **self-isolate and book a PCR test**
- if you do not have symptoms, **take regular lateral flow tests**
- outdoors is safer than indoors
- keep your distance when you can
- wash your hands
- **wear a face covering**

If you have any questions, you can find Dr Anwar in the Science Department in room S5 or send your question to gashif.anwar@willows.cardiff.sch.uk. Let's start 2022 on the right foot!

Safeguarding:

A reminder that our school safeguarding can be contacted if you have any worries or concerns about a child:

Danielle.Mackintosh@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk

A new service has been launched by the Cardiff Youth Service support young people to flourish and thrive, building on their individual talents, skills and abilities. You can watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuUfKKWVV6Q>

Cardiff Family Help Team are an early intervention service offering high quality information, advice and assistance to children and young people aged 0 – 18 (and to 25 for vulnerable adults) and their families living in Cardiff.

Cardiff Foodbank:

Willows High School is a partner agency for Cardiff Foodbank.

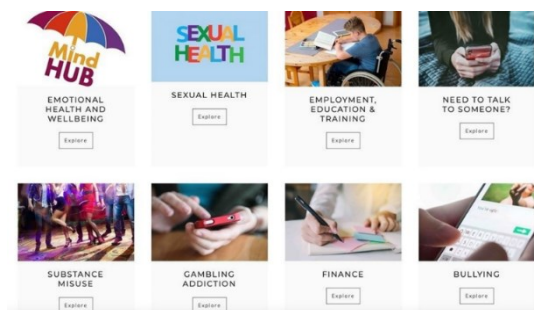
If you need a Foodbank Voucher please call Sam Watt (Family and Community Engagement Officer, Willows) in confidence on 02922 672744/07592 037937

Cardiff Youth Service:

Cardiff Youth Service can support young people on a variety of topics such as emotional health, housing, finance and help lines. More information can be found on their website:

<http://cardiffyouthservices.wales/>

Here is a reminder of some of the key services available for young people and their families:



- **School nurse** – pupils can text 07520615718 or ‘chat’ on ‘Chathealth.NHS.UK’ for confidential advice and support.
- **Family Gateway** – 03000133133 – provides advice for families no matter how big or small the problem.
- **Food Bank*** - our nearest food bank can be found at St. Saviours Church on Splott Road. For dates and times, go to <https://cardiff.foodbank.org.uk/>
- **Period Poverty** – Please e-mail Mrs. Bubbins at Kelly.Bubbins@willows.cardiff.sch.uk if you need feminine hygiene products and we’ll do our best to help.

Community:

Tremorfa Pantry:

Congratulations to our friends at Tremorfa Pantry who have been nominated for a ‘TPAS Cymru’ Award for their hard work and passion in our community. We also wish the group every success with their upcoming world-record breaking tombola. A special shout out to our very own Ronnie and Kane who have done an excellent job as the faces of the campaign. The draw is on Saturday (04.12.21) so make sure you buy your tickets and pop along to Tremorfa Community Hall on Tweedsmuir Road between 10am and 4pm.

Splott Community Volunteers – Cardiff Foodbank:

Da iawn to Mr. Smith for organising our annual donation to Cardiff Foodbank. Our generous pupils and their families gave more than ever. We are very proud of everyone involved and would like to thank you again for your support.





Keep Splott Tidy – Festive Litter Pick:

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2021

Keep Splott Tidy

Christmas fancy dress litterpick



**SPLOTT ROAD
(VACCINE CENTRE)
9:30AM**

Have your 'elf' a Merry Christmas!

Your 'presents' is requested for our annual Christmas litter pick!

To coincide with Cardiff's very own Santa dash, it's time to 'spruce' up Splott Road.

You 'snow' the drill....Come wearing your most festive outfit and let us see you 'sleigh' it!

All equipment will be provided 'yule' have have a great time 'fir' sure!

Oasis and Railway Gardens – Community Christmas Fair:



Pupil Pick-ups and Drop offs:

We respectfully request that families do not park near the school at the end of the day. As you can imagine, with all of our pupils leaving through the single gate on Meirion Place at 3.30pm, it can get pretty crowded and the congestion caused by cars parked on both sides of the road means it’s potentially an accident waiting to happen. We’d be grateful if you would park a couple of streets away and ask your child to walk to you. This will means the area will be a lot safer for our pupils and your children will get an extra load of steps in every day.



Diolch:

As always, thank you for your support. If there are any problems, we would appreciate that you contact the relevant person in school straight away rather than using social media platforms. We will always try our best to reach a solution and this will ensure your concern is seen and avoid any misinformation and miscommunication.

A polite reminder that our teachers and Welfare Officers are very busy working with children throughout the day. To avoid disappointment, please ring or e-mail school to book an appointment with the relevant person rather than turning up at school reception.

By working together we can ensure your child’s success.

Team Willows

This week's fun activity comes from Mr. Hanif:

'Tis the time for Christmas STEM activities!

Ho, Ho, Ho - Merry Christmas!

Hey folks, why not try some of these Christmas themed STEM activities to do during the holidays, with lots of curricular inspired fun, practical STEM investigations and projects.



If you have a passion for STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), you can find out more about the national STEM Club at: <https://www.stem.org.uk/national-stem...> . Here, you can download free activity and information sheets to help you conduct STEM activities at home.

There are a mix of activities available suitable for 5 to 18+ year olds. The collection is a mix of STEM Club and curricular inspired fun and practical STEM investigations and projects.

Why not showcase your activities and challenges and earn some rewards, praise cards and merits. Please send your STEM experiment pictures to Tariq.Hanif@willows.cardiff.sch.uk - winners will be announced in the first week back after the holidays!

NOVEMBER 2021

SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

The Cardiff Commitment



Ambition | Opportunities | Skills
Uchelgais | Cyfleoedd | Sgiliau

Online Resources

Your Space App

Cardiff Women's Aid, Girls Centre, have launched their new 'Your Space' app for Children and Young people aged 11 to 18. It is a space for young people (ages 11-18) to find useful resources and information of who to contact when in need of help.

It is also a space to share ideas, thoughts and stories about mental health and wellbeing, relationships and gender-based violence.

Check it out with this web link: <https://yourspace.org.uk/>

Supporting Young Cardiffians: Highlighting Help for Young People



The Sprout have launched a new campaign called 'Supporting Young Cardiffians' that aims to increase awareness and understanding of the support available for children and young people.

Visit The Sprout to view the [Supporting Young Cardiffians](#) campaign and head to [Cardiff Family Advice and Support](#) to find out more about information, advice and assistance for children, young people, and families.

Don't forget to follow the campaign on social media and share content using the hashtag #CFASNotSoAlone.

OVERVIEW:

Welcome to our monthly Cardiff Commitment Newsletter to inform schools and partners of projects which have been developed to support schools, children, young people and their families.

Visit the Cardiff Commitment Resource Page: [Cardiff Commitment - Teaching Resources](#) to find new resources and activities.

Alternatively if your organisation or school needs support from the Cardiff Commitment team then please get in contact by emailing: cardiffcommitment@cardiff.gov.uk



Are you looking for modern Welsh language music for your learners? Radio Cymru 2 will be creating a new playlist every month on BBC Sounds which is easy to find, simple to use and available free of charge to schools and parents.

Find out more here: [Miwsig.y Siarter Iaith - BBC Sounds](#)

Primary School Opportunities

Primary School Applications now open!



Applications for primary school places to start in September 2022 are open and parents are encouraged to make use of all three preferences to get the best chance of securing a school they want.

A child is not automatically entitled to a reception place at a primary school where they attend the nursery. A new application must be made for a reception class place at primary school. For families applying for a place at a faith school, applications should be made directly to the school.

Primary school applications close on Monday 10, January 2022. To apply for a school place [please visit](#).

Children's University



Children's University is a charity that works in partnership with schools to develop a love of learning in children. This is achieved by encouraging and celebrating participation in extra-curricular activities in and outside of school. The impact of these activities is proven to be positive which explains a commitment to creating a level playing field of opportunity and opening up access to children of all backgrounds.

For more information or to get involved visit: [Cardiff Children's University: Child Friendly Cardiff](#)

Cardiff Commitment: Open Your Eyes Week



The Cardiff Commitment Virtual Open Your Eyes Week (OYEW) took place (15th -19th November) with 60+ primary schools across Cardiff. The event included sessions delivered by companies such as NHS Wales, The Civil Service and Welsh Water. **73%** of pupils who took part in OYEW thought the sessions were good or great!

"I loved this lesson it was my favourite so far because I myself, want to be a children's nurse when i am older and today someone who works in the NHS told us about it and now i want to be in the NHS even more. Thank You for this lesson today" NHS Wales Session, pupil.

Check out all our OYEW videos [here](#). If you would like any additional information about the businesses presenting please email cardiffcommitment@cardiff.gov.uk with the subject OPEN YOUR EYES WEEK.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the schools who took part in our OYEW and completed the feedback forms! We would also like to give a shout out to Trelai Primary, Kitchener Primary, St Mary the Virgin CIW Primary, Christ the King Catholic Primary and Bishop Childs CIW Primary for participating in our Focus Groups to provide us with more in-depth feedback which will help us to improve our future events.

Secondary School Opportunities



Do you want to develop your cooking skills?

FutureChef is BACK, bigger and better than before, with more opportunities for your students and support for you in the classroom. The leading UK culinary schools-based competition and would love to have some representation from Wales at our National Final. We completely understand the current restraints in place within your schools, and so if you are keen to register, we are happy to progress you straight through to our Regional Finals, which will be taking place in February. We can also support you, and your students, by arranging for industry professional chefs to attend your school and work with your students in preparation for the Regionals.

It's not too late to enter, visit <https://futurechef.uk.net/information-registration/teachers/> for further information and to register.

Are you interested in a career in film, TV, games or animation?

ScreenSkills

ScreenSkills have a range of training, masterclasses, programmes and events on offer for you to find out more about the industry.

Browse, masterclasses, career maps and other useful information published by ScreenSkills and trusted partners by visiting their website here: [Careers, jobs and skills training in film, TV, VFX, animation and games - ScreenSkills](#)



STEM Apprenticeship Conference

Techniquest is supporting STEM learning in the organisation of a virtual UK wide Apprenticeship Conference- 6-10th December. The aim of this event is to inform students with all the information they need to make a decision if an apprenticeship is for them. It will consist of virtual employer stands showcasing the respective company apprenticeship schemes. Every day your students will be able to join live chat sessions with STEM Ambassadors from the companies and ask whatever questions they have.

The link to register your Expression of Interest is [here](#).

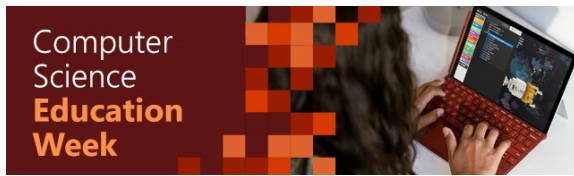
Renishaw Early Careers Information virtual event - 14 December 18:30



If you are interested in working in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) please come and explore the different routes that Renishaw offers on the 14th December from 18:30-19:30. This event is designed to help guide all secondary school aged students and their parents/carers through some of the difficult career decisions that you will be facing over the next few years.

Tickets can be obtained on the following link: [Renishaw's Early Careers Information Virtual Event Tickets, Tue 14 Dec 2021 at 18:30 | Eventbrite](#)

An Hour of Code with Microsoft



Celebrate Computer Science Education Week (December 6-12) and participate in an Hour of Code with Microsoft. From travelling back in time in the new Minecraft Hour of Code: TimeCraft, we're bringing together a set of remote-classroom-friendly tools, lesson plans, and resources that can be used in all types of learning environments.

Throughout November, Microsoft are hosting professional development opportunities to prepare educators to lead Hour of Code sessions with Minecraft: Education Edition and MakeCode Arcade in their classrooms. New this year, educators can sign up to have Microsoft Education experts lead their classroom through an Hour of Code lesson with Minecraft, MakeCode Arcade, HackingSTEM and more during #CSEdWeek!

[Register Today](#)

NatWest MoneySense 12-16 year olds



Don't know where to start when learning about finance?

Check out [NatWest's MoneySense](#) resources which has free activities, information and games to help you learn easily!

Support for teachers can also be found here: [Money & Finance Education Resources for Teachers | MoneySense \(mymoneysense.com\)](#)

The Voice of Young People on Safeguarding

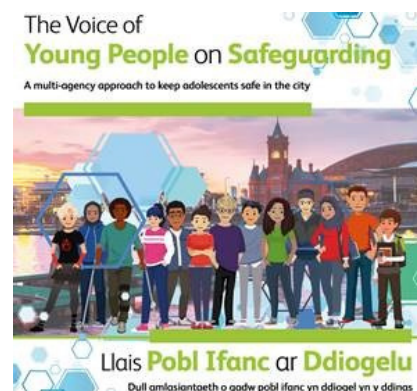
A plan called **The Voice of Young People on Safeguarding** has been created to help improve the lives of children and young people across Cardiff.

The plan aims to ensure that all children and young people feel safe, happy and thrive in their lives. It will promote adolescent resilience, prevent and intervene to address adolescent harm, and enable young people to live safely in their families and communities wherever possible.

The plan highlights the uniqueness of adolescence as a stage of development and the context in which young people exist. A contextual safeguarding approach is a key feature of this plan.

The document has been written for a wide audience - young people, professionals working with 11-18 year olds (and those slightly younger or older) in Cardiff and parents and carers.

To read **The Voice of Young People on Safeguarding** click [here](#).



Post 16 Opportunities



CAVC Open Evenings: 9th & 10th February 2022

If you're thinking about College, visiting us at an Open Evening is a great way to find out more. At an Open Evening you can speak to tutors about your course of interest, take a tour of the facilities on site, get advice and guidance and learn about support and opportunities offered by the College. You can even apply there and then with help on hand from friendly staff.

Our Open Evenings take place at both our Barry Campus and City Centre Campus, Cardiff on the following dates:

February 2022 Open Evenings

- Wednesday 9th February 2022 - Cardiff - 4.30pm - 7.30pm
- Thursday 10th February 2022 - Barry - 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Follow this link to find out more and to book your place: [Open Evenings at Cardiff and Vale College - Cardiff and Vale College \(cavc.ac.uk\)](https://www.cavc.ac.uk).



Cardiff
Metropolitan
University

Prifysgol
Metropolitan
Caerdydd

Cardiff Met Open Day - 4th December 2021

Cardiff Met are delighted to welcome you onto campus on 4th December. Open Days are an opportunity for you to visit our campuses, see the facilities relating to your area of study, tour our student accommodation, meet students and academic staff, and find out more about what it's like to be a student here at Cardiff Met.

You can also visit our Hub, where staff from Admissions, Accommodation, Students' Union and a host of other areas will be on hand to answer any questions you have about studying at Cardiff Met.

Book your place [here](#).

Winter wonderland Seasonal Staff Required 16th November - 3rd January



Would you like to be part of the team who operate the magical Ice Rink and Ice Walk at Cardiff Winter Wonderland?

Winter wonderland are looking for Ice Marshalls and Skate House Staff at the Ice rink at Cardiff's Winter Wonderland. As part of our team, you will be the face and energy of the event, ensuring customers have an enjoyable and memorable experience whilst staying safe on the ice.

For more information please contact office@a2hlive.com

To find out about more job opportunities please visit:
www.cardiff.gov.uk/whatsnext

Post 16 Opportunities

'WHAT'S NEXT?' - A PLATFORM THAT CENTRALISES PROVISION AND OPPORTUNITIES IN CARDIFF FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-24.

WWW.CARDIFF.GOV.UK/WHATSNEXT

November saw a range of new creative opportunities come to 'What's Next?' which is fantastic news for any aspiring creatives out there. Opportunities include:

- A special effects apprentice with Real SFX
- A creative services apprentice with Golley Slater
- A media apprentice with Golley Slater
- Digital & creative media apprentices with ITV
- Young consultants for the SUMMIT Welsh music Industry conference
- Trainee Finder Open Doors Wales positions for "getting into film/tv" with Screen Skills



This month has also seen our Cardiff Commitment team out in the community promoting the platform at the City Hall jobs fair. The team engaged with lots of young people looking for their next steps into education, employment or training by introducing them to 'What's Next?'.

The team have also engaged with young people from the Pupil Inclusion Project, at Gabalfa Community Centre, and the Student 6th Form Council at Cardiff West Community High School. The aim of these engagements was to deliver focus groups in order to gain suggestions on how to further improve the 'What's Next?' platform.

The team are looking to plan more focus groups in the build up to Christmas, so please get in touch by emailing cardiffcommitment@cardiff.gov.uk if young people at your school would like to get involved. Alternatively, young people can have their say by completing our online survey which can be found on our homepage at www.cardiff.gov.uk/whatsnext. Those who complete the survey are entered into a prize draw to win a £50 St David's shopping voucher. The survey closes on the 10th of December with the lucky winner being announced shortly after.



[Celtic Manor Job Shop - Celtic Manor Job Shop | Celtic Manor Resort | Celtic Manor Resort \(celtic-manor.com\)](http://celtic-manor.com)

Join us every Monday at our stylish Mulberry Bar for an informal meet up to discuss our current job opportunities.

Whether you're looking for a part time role or want to kick off your career, our job shop is the perfect opportunity to discover what Celtic Collection has to offer, meet the team and show us what you're all about.

Every Monday - 3.30pm - 6pm

Mulberry Bar, Celtic Manor Resort

There is no need to select a timeslot, we just ask that confirm your attendance via the registration form and you arrive anytime between 3.30pm and 6pm. Please note that our informal interviews take place on a first come first served basis so there may be a wait.

Please bring the following documents:

- Your CV
- ID that confirms your eligibility to work in the UK

Online Events

TEENTECH[®]

An exciting programme of Innovation sessions and TeenTech City of Tomorrow events for students aged 8-19, starting March 2022. Join the Teacher Briefing and Q&A on Tuesday 30th November 2021 at 4:00pm.

The interactive sessions will help young people understand more about careers and the way exciting emerging technology is shaping all aspects of our lives.

The virtual sessions last an hour and students then have the option to work on short challenges or projects and participate in a follow-up feedback session with industry experts. We have sessions suitable for all ages, interests and abilities.

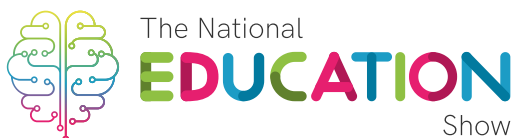
For more information or to register click [here](#).

National Education Show

The National Education Show is the leading education event in Wales providing opportunities and new ways to improve and raise standards, enhance learning experiences and support learners.

The National Education Show delivers inspiring seminars from sector leaders and opportunities to meet a wide variety of exhibitors, the show is a must-attend event for everyone working in the education sector.

See upcoming virtual events and access recorded sessions here: [The National Education Show](#)



Incorporating the SEN/ALN Show



Microsoft Webinar: 10th January 2022

Want to learn how you can make the most out of Microsoft 365?

Register for the Microsoft FREE online webinar 'Making the Most of Microsoft 365' on the 10th January 2022 at 10am.

This workshop will give an orientation of the tools you have at your fingertips with M365 and give you an overview of what they do and how they can improve your collaboration, productivity and automation of tasks. In this session, you will discover more about apps such as –

- OneNote
- SharePoint
- Teams
- ToDo & Planner
- Forms & Lists

Sign up here: [Making the most of Microsoft 365 Tickets, Thu 13 Jan 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Online meeting details will be sent to you 48 hours before the workshop.

Opportunities for Young People regarding their Next Steps

Cardiff Commitment's social media Twitter, Instagram and Facebook pages are sharing opportunities for young people such as Trainee and Apprenticeship opportunities, CAVC, Careers Wales, Post 16 provision in 6th forms and more.

Please like, share, tag and comment on the Cardiff Commitment social media to spread the word to young people, parents and carers, teachers and communities.

New opportunities

Do you know of any up and coming events that would be of interest to pupils, young people or schools?

Send us any opportunities you would like to share and we will send to our network of contacts throughout Cardiff!

FOLLOW US



Keep up-to-date with the Cardiff Commitment's latest updates through our [News and Events Page](#).

CONTACT US

Cardiffcommitment@cardiff.gov.uk
02920 788565