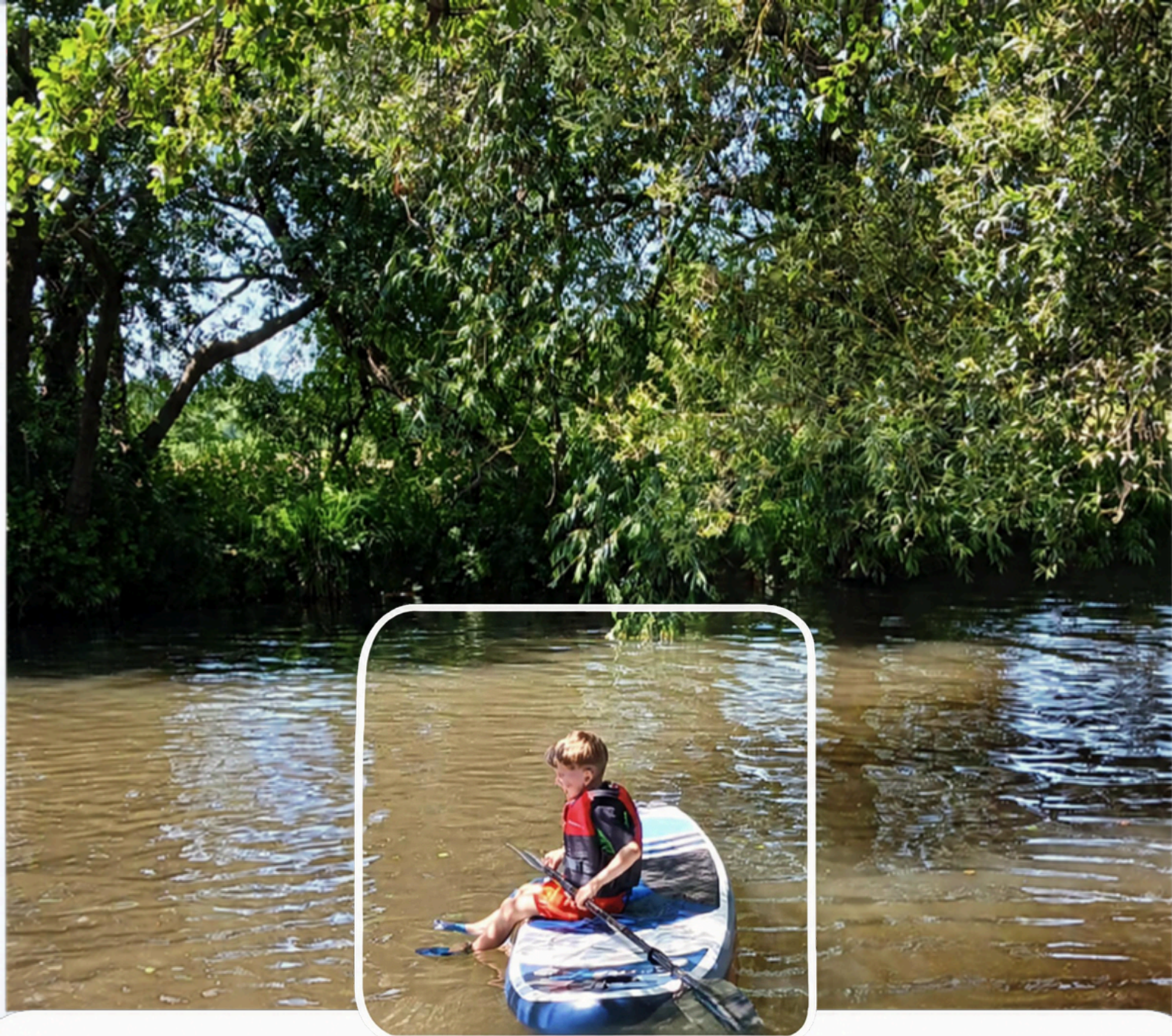




CURRICULUM CONNECT

HILL VIEW
SCHOOL



Issue 5
Autumn 2026

**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**

Welcome to the fifth issue of *Curriculum Connect!*

Welcome to our Autumn edition of Curriculum Connect. In this newsletter, we are delighted to share the learning, experiences and opportunities planned for learners across Hill View School this term.

To help families see the bigger picture of learning across the school, we have included **overview pages** for our key curriculum areas, including CLL, Maths, PSHE, PE, Outdoor Education, Animal Care and Food Technology. These provide a summary of the learning all learners will experience this term, while the **class pages** highlight the specific topics, books and projects that make each class unique.

You will also find an update on **Career Related Learning**, an area we are incredibly proud of. Last year, some of our Year 10 learners successfully completed off-site work experience placements, and we look forward to expanding these opportunities further across this year and beyond.

We hope this newsletter gives you a valuable insight into life at Hill View and the exciting learning planned for the term ahead. As always, thank you for your continued support as we work together to help our learners **be respectful, stay safe and learn more**.

Philippa
Assistant Headteacher, Curriculum



**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**

Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)



This term, all learners are focusing on Instructional Writing and Report Writing through our adapted Talk for Writing curriculum. Each class will study a high-quality text each half term to support reading, speaking, listening and writing.

Our approach follows three key stages:

- **Immerse:** exploring texts, vocabulary and language structures.
- **Imitate:** adapting familiar texts and ideas.
- **Innovate:** creating independent pieces of writing.



We learn more

Learners will develop skills in:

- Speaking and listening.
- Reading fluency and comprehension.
- Vocabulary development.
- Organising and presenting ideas.
- Grammar, punctuation and sentence construction.
- Writing for different audiences and purposes.



Younger learners will focus on early communication, phonics and storytelling, while older learners will build greater independence through more sophisticated reading, discussion and writing tasks.

Through engaging texts and meaningful writing opportunities, we aim to develop confident communicators who enjoy reading, writing and expressing their ideas.



How Can Families Help at Home?

- Read and talk together regularly.
 - Encourage your child to share their ideas.
 - Use and discuss new words.
 - Follow instructions during everyday activities.
 - Encourage simple writing, such as lists or notes.
- Regular talking, reading and writing at home helps build confidence and literacy skills.

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Maths:

A focus on number



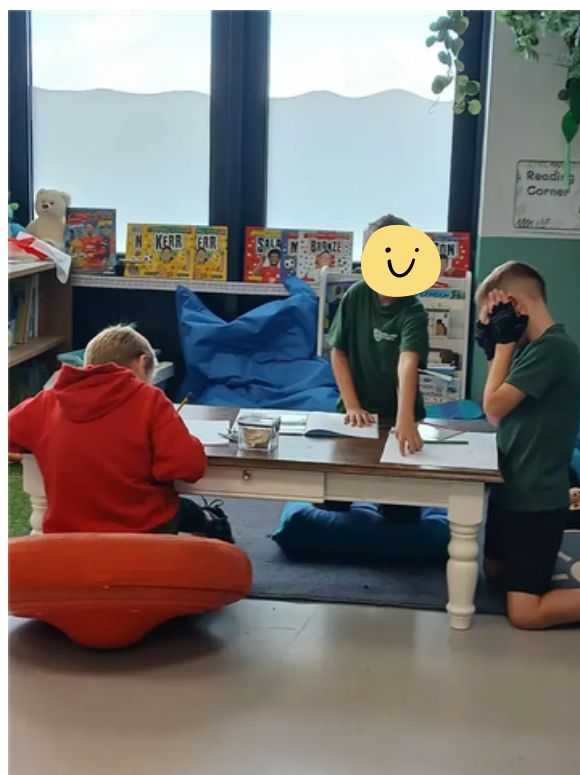
This term, all learners are focusing on **Number**, following personalised pathways based on the **NCETM Ready to Progress Criteria**, adapted for Hill View learners with support from the Boolean Maths Hub.

Learning focuses on two key areas:

- **Number and Place Value (NPV):** counting, place value, decimals, number lines and applying number skills in real-life contexts.
- **Number Fluency (NF):** developing confidence and rapid recall of key number facts through **Mastering Number** principles.

Learning is practical, engaging and tailored to individual needs. KS4 learners continue to work towards **NCFE Level 2 Maths** qualifications while strengthening their core number skills.

By developing strong foundations in number, we are helping learners build confidence and success in maths both in and beyond school.



We are respectful



We stay safe



We learn more

How Can Families Help at Home?

- Practise counting and spotting numbers in everyday life.
- Talk about numbers when shopping or cooking.
- Play simple number and card games.
- Encourage your child to explain how they worked out an answer.

Regular opportunities to use and discuss numbers help build confidence and fluency in maths.

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PE: Building Skills through Sport



This term, learners will develop their physical skills, confidence and teamwork through **Badminton, Volleyball, Gymnastics and Parkour**.

The Knoll will focus on fundamental movement skills, including jumping, throwing, balancing, catching and movement to music.

PE plays an important role in supporting physical health, wellbeing and readiness to learn. Through these activities, learners will develop:

- Coordination, balance and agility.
- Strength and hand-eye coordination.
- Teamwork and communication.
- Confidence, resilience and perseverance.
- The ability to challenge themselves and celebrate personal success.

Our aim is to help every learner enjoy being active while developing skills that support both learning and everyday life.



We stay safe



How Can Families Help at Home?

- Encourage regular physical activity through walks, cycling or active play.
- Practise simple throwing, catching and balancing activities.
- Play games that build coordination and teamwork.
- Celebrate effort, participation and progress.

Regular movement helps develop confidence, wellbeing and healthy habits for life.

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Build the best us.**

Outdoor Education This Term



This term, learners will take part in a range of outdoor learning experiences, including **Coastal School, Forest School, Outdoor Cooking, Swimming, Water Safety and Flotation, and Community Discovery.**

Activities are tailored to each class and are designed to develop:

- Confidence and resilience.
- Independence and problem-solving.
- Teamwork and communication.
- Personal safety and risk awareness.
- Physical wellbeing and coordination.
- Respect for the environment and local community.

Outdoor learning provides valuable opportunities for learners to challenge themselves, build life skills and apply their learning in real-world contexts.



We stay safe



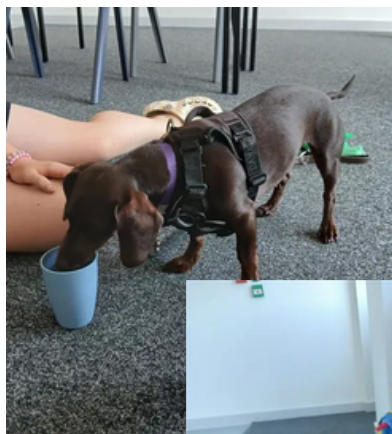
How Can Families Help at Home?

- Spend time outdoors through walks, visits to local green spaces or exploring your local area.
- Encourage independence through practical tasks such as cooking, gardening or caring for belongings.
- Talk about staying safe and looking after the environment.
- Discuss local wildlife, weather and seasonal changes.

Regular outdoor experiences help build confidence, independence, wellbeing and curiosity about the world around us.

**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**

Life Skills in Action: Animal Care and Food Technology



Led by **HLTA Jade** in our dedicated Animal Care room, this term learners will focus on **animal welfare, health, hygiene and nutrition**, developing the knowledge and skills needed to care for animals responsibly.

Through practical activities, learners will build:

- Animal care and welfare skills.
- Responsibility and independence.
- Communication and teamwork.
- Employability and preparation for adulthood.

Learning is tailored to each age group, from feeding animals and following routines to health monitoring, record keeping and professional animal care practices.



We are respectful

Led by **Sarah W (Secondary)** and **Paulina (Primary)** in our school kitchen, learners will explore **Bread and Baking** (Autumn 1) and **Food from Around the World** (Autumn 2).

Through practical cooking activities, learners will develop:

- Food hygiene and safety skills.
- Food preparation and cooking techniques.
- Healthy eating and nutrition knowledge.
- Teamwork, confidence and independence.
- Employability and life skills.

As learners progress through the school, they gain increasing independence in planning, preparing and evaluating dishes, while older learners begin developing skills linked to vocational qualifications and future employment.



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Build the best us.**

PSHE, Gatherings and Discovery Time



This term, learners will follow the **Jigsaw PSHE** programme, focusing on **Being Me in My World** and **Celebrating Difference**.

Through these topics, learners will develop:

- Self-awareness and emotional wellbeing.
- Positive relationships and communication skills.
- Respect, diversity and inclusion.
- Responsibility and positive decision-making.

These lessons help learners build the confidence, resilience and social skills needed for life in and beyond school.



We are respectful

How Can Families Help at Home?

- Talk openly about feelings and experiences.
- Encourage respect for others and celebrate differences.
- Support responsibility through everyday tasks.

Regular conversations at home help reinforce the personal and social skills developed through PSHE.



Secondary **Gatherings**, led by Philippa, and Primary **Discovery Time**, led by Louisa, help learners explore the values that underpin life at Hill View.

This term, learners will focus on our Hill View Values: **We are respectful, We stay safe, We learn more.** Alongside these, learners will learn about the **British Values** of **democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance.** These values help prepare young people for life in modern Britain and support safeguarding by encouraging respect, understanding and positive decision-making.

Through stories, discussions, celebrations and current events, learners will explore how these values help them succeed in school, within their communities and beyond.



**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**

The Knoll and Ham Hill: Exploring our World



The Knoll - Big Wide World

This term, The Knoll are exploring **Big Wide World** through the books *The Lion on the Bus* and *Handa's Surprise*. Learners will discover different people, places and cultures around the world.

In **Creative Arts**, learners will explore **Creating with Materials**, while in **Science** they will take part in practical **CREST Award** investigations. Across the curriculum, the focus is on developing communication, curiosity, independence and confidence.



We learn more



Ham Hill - Bright Lights, Big City

This term, Ham Hill are exploring **Bright Lights, Big City** through the books *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and *In the City*. Learners will learn about London, its landmarks, transport systems and the **Great Fire of London**, while developing early geographical and historical skills.

In **Science**, learners will investigate materials and their properties, while Art will focus on drawing people, places and landmarks linked to the topic. Throughout the term, learners will develop their curiosity, creativity and understanding of the wider world.

**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**

Tor Hill and Herne Hill: From Maps to Rivers



Tor Hill – Let's Explore the World

This term, Tor Hill are exploring **Let's Explore the World** through the books *The Boy Who Loved Maps* and *Window*. Learners will use maps, atlases and compass directions to discover the UK and the wider world while developing their geographical skills.

In **Science**, learners will investigate materials, their properties and separation. In **Art**, they will design and create **model cities** linked to their geographical learning.



We learn more



We are respectful



We stay safe

Herne Hill – Flow

This term, Herne Hill are exploring **Flow** through the books *A River* and *The Drop in My Drink*. Learners will learn about rivers, water and their importance to people, wildlife and the environment, while developing fieldwork and enquiry skills.

In **Science**, learners will investigate materials, rocks, Earth's resources and the atmosphere. In **Art**, they will create water-inspired artwork and design and build bridges linked to their topic. Both classes will develop curiosity, creativity and a deeper understanding of the natural world through practical, hands-on learning.



**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**

Staple Hill and Lydeard Hill: Discovery and Exploration



Staple Hill – Darwin's Delights

This term, Staple Hill are exploring **Darwin's Delights** through the books *Choose Your Own Evolution* and *What Mr Darwin Saw*. Learners will investigate how living things adapt and change, alongside wider geographical topics including climate change, global trade and human settlements.

In Science, learners will study **Classification, Habitats and Ecosystems**, as well as **States of Matter, Earth Resources, Rocks and the Atmosphere**. In **Art**, they will develop observational drawing skills through sketching plants and animals in their own sketchbooks.



Lydeard Hill – Explorers

This term, Lydeard Hill are looking at **Explorers** through the books *The Lost Book of Adventure* and *The Extraordinary Life of Amelia Earhart*. Learners will investigate what it means to be a geographer, how we use natural resources and how economies connect local communities to the wider world.

In Science, taught by Tom and specialist teacher Philippa, learners will study **Materials, Properties and Separation, States of Matter and Particles, and Atomic Structure, Elements and Compounds**.

Both classes will develop curiosity, enquiry and critical thinking while exploring how people discover, understand and shape our world.



We learn more

**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**

Sunny Hill and Coker Hill: Global Connections and Future Pathways



Sunny Hill – Migration

This term, Sunny Hill are exploring **Migration** through the books *World Tour* and *Journey Back to Freedom*. Learners will investigate **Our Planet, Changing Populations and Migration**, developing their understanding of how people, places and communities are connected.

In **Science**, taught by Kira and specialist teacher Philippa, learners will study **Materials, Properties and Separation, States of Matter and Particles, and Atomic Structure, Elements and Compounds** through practical investigation and enquiry.



We learn more



We are respectful



Coker Hill – Qualification Pathways

This term, Coker Hill learners are beginning a range of **NCFE qualifications** as part of their preparation for adulthood.

Learners will work towards **Functional Skills English and Maths**, alongside **Occupational Studies**, including Food Technology and Animal Care. They will also develop workplace skills through **Employability Skills** and creative techniques through **Creative Craft**.

In **Science**, taught by specialist teacher Philippa, learners will continue their **Entry Level Science** qualification, focusing on Physics and revisiting previous learning to prepare for their Year 1 assessments.

Both classes will develop independence, confidence and the skills needed for future education, employment and adult life.



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Burrow Hill: Preparing for the Future

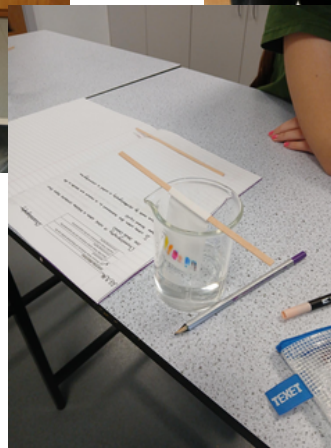
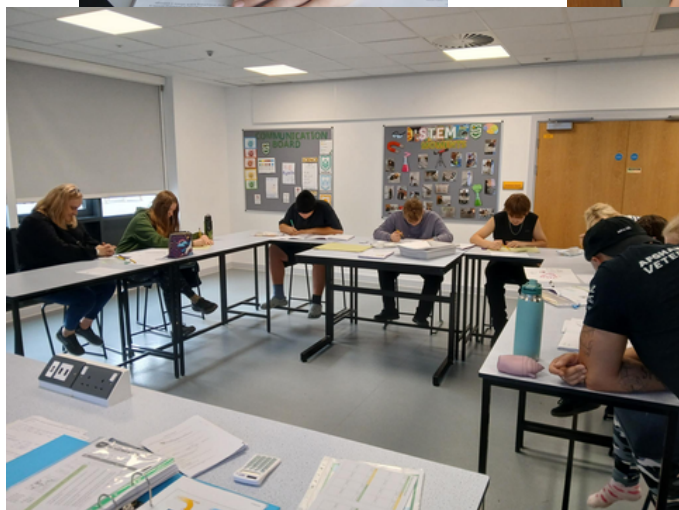
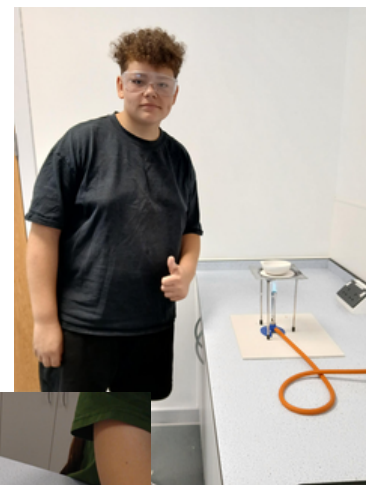


As learners in Burrow Hill enter their final year at Hill View, the focus is on achieving qualifications and preparing for the next stage of education, training or employment.

Learners will continue working towards **NCFE Functional Skills English and Maths**, alongside **Employability Skills**. They will further develop workplace skills through **Occupational Studies**, including units in **Food Technology** and working with our school **animals**, as well as creativity through **Creative Craft**.

In **Science**, taught by specialist teacher Philippa, learners will continue their **Entry Level Science** qualification, studying Chemistry before moving on to Biology, which covers areas including health, disease prevention, medicines, vaccinations and healthy lifestyle choices.

Throughout the term, learners will strengthen the knowledge, confidence and independence needed for successful transitions beyond Hill View.



We learn more

**Be the best you.
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Career Related Learning at Hill View School



At Hill View, we work closely with **Somerset Careers Hub** to develop career-related learning from Primary through to KS4, helping learners build aspirations and prepare for their futures.

We are proud to have achieved **100% across all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks**, placing Hill View **joint first out of 61 schools** in Somerset for careers provision. These nationally recognised benchmarks measure the quality of careers education, ensuring learners receive meaningful guidance, employer encounters, workplace experiences and personalised support.

Our Careers Lead, Philippa (Level 6 Qualified Careers Adviser), works with learners and families to explore future pathways, qualifications and career opportunities.

Find Out More:

Visit our Careers pages:

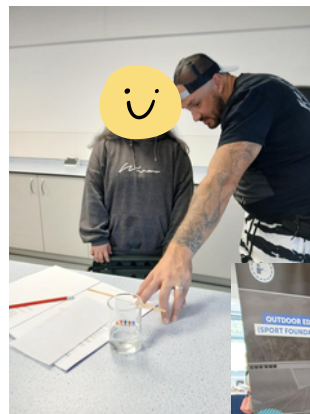
- [Careers at Hill View: Hill View School - Careers](#)
- [Careers Resources for Students & Parents/Carers: Hill View School - Information for students, parents and carers](#)

The website includes:

- A KS4 pathways video from Philippa.
- Information about qualification levels.
- Careers-in-focus resources and downloadable PDFs.
- Local Labour Market Information (LMI).
- Resources for students, parents and carers.

Families, particularly those with learners in Years 10 and 11, may also find the Somerset Careers Hub Parent & Carer Padlet useful for information about open days, apprenticeships, supported internships and post-16 pathways:

- [Somerset Careers Hub padlet](#)



We learn more

If you would like to discuss careers education or arrange an appointment with our careers adviser, please contact the school office. Together, we can help every learner plan confidently for their future.

**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**

This is to certify

Hill View School

has achieved 100% in the Gatsby Benchmarks
2025-2026

Signed:

Robert Morrish, Strategic Careers Hub Lead



Somerset
CAREERS HUB

CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
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