



**Royal Wootton Bassett
Academy Sixth Form
Weekly Newsletter #154
12 July 2024**



**Congratulations to those students with the
highest attendance this year. Enjoy your
COSTA coffee**

100% attendance for

Claire Gordon, Matthew Jacobs, Grace O'Nions, Max Thomas, Isabella Thorp,

99% attendance for

Samuel Evans, Shuvam Gurung, Cameron Iles, Elliot Miles, Tommy Zirger, Ninam Bantawa, Leo Bell, Oliver Burt, Edward Jack, Amelia Smith, Jack Gurr, Daniel Jacobs





The Year 13 ready programme is in its final stage. All students are to have their 1:1 30min PDP session with their tutor next week. Many thanks to the parents that attended the parent evening on Monday. Your support is hugely appreciated.



Dr Shepperson's workshops have been well attended and students have been reminded of the key learning strategies that could make a difference in improving progress and retention of information ready for next year.

The following few pages detail these. The QR code at the top of the page links to a short video for further examples of how these skills can be used effectively.





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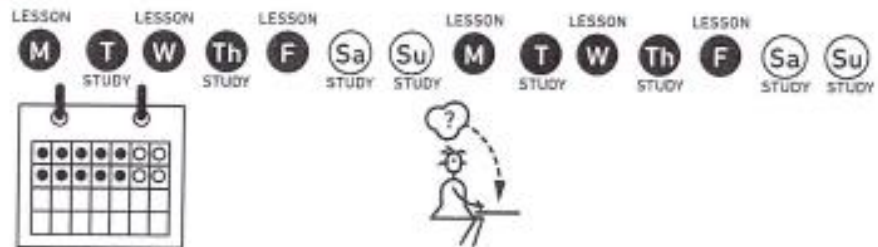
LEARN TO STUDY USING... Spaced Practice

SPACE OUT YOUR STUDYING OVER TIME

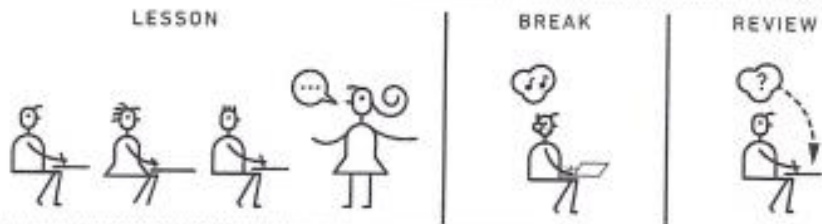


HOW TO DO IT

Start planning early for exams, and set aside a little bit of time every day. Five hours spread out over two weeks is better than the same five hours all at once.



Review information from each class, but not immediately after class.



After you review information from the most recent class, make sure to go back and study important older information to keep it fresh.



HOLD ON!

TESTING 1 SPACING 2 SKETCHING 3



When you sit down to study, make sure you are using effective study strategies rather than just re-reading your class notes.



This may seem difficult and you may forget some information from day to day, but this is actually a good thing! This forces you to retrieve information from memory (see Retrieval Practice poster).



Create small spaces (a few days) and do a little bit over time, so that it adds up!

RESEARCH

Read more about spacing as a study strategy

Benjamin, A. S., & Tullis, J. (2010). What makes distributed practice effective? *Cognitive Psychology*, 61, 228-247.



LEARN TO STUDY USING... Retrieval Practice

PRACTICE BRINGING INFORMATION TO MIND



LEARNINGSOCIETISTS.ORG

HOW TO DO IT

Put away your class materials, and write or sketch everything you know. Be as thorough as possible. Then, check your class materials for accuracy and important points you missed.



Take as many practice tests as you can get your hands on. If you don't have ready-made tests, try making your own and trading with a friend who has done the same.



You can also make flashcards. Just make sure you practice recalling the information on them, and go beyond definitions by thinking of links between ideas.



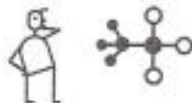
HOLD ON!



Retrieval practice works best when you go back to check your class materials for accuracy afterward.



Retrieval is hard! If you're struggling, identify the things you've missed from your class materials, and work your way up to recalling it on your own with the class materials closed.



Don't only recall words and definitions. Make sure to recall main ideas, how things are related or different from one another, and new examples.

RESEARCH

Read more about retrieval practice as a study strategy

Roediger, H. L., Putnam, A. L., & Smith, M. A. (2011). Ten benefits of testing and their applications to educational practice. In J. Mestre & B. Ross (Eds.), *Psychology of learning and motivation: Cognition in education*, (pp. 1-36). Oxford: Elsevier.



LEARNINGSOCIETIES.ORG

LEARN TO STUDY USING...

Elaboration

EXPLAIN AND DESCRIBE IDEAS WITH MANY DETAILS

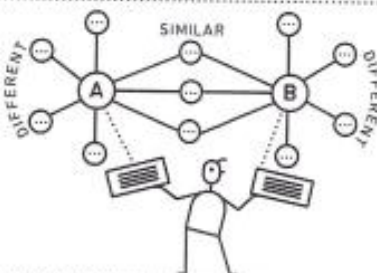


HOW TO DO IT

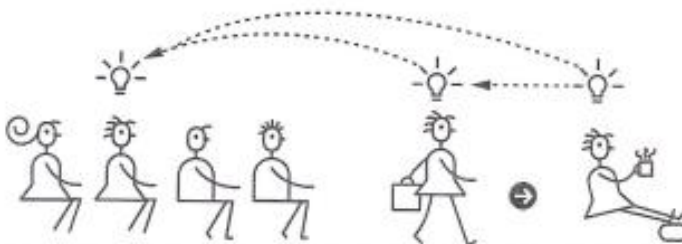
Ask yourself questions while you are studying about how things work and why, and then find the answers in your class materials and discuss them with your classmates.



As you elaborate, make connections between different ideas to explain how they work together. Take two ideas and think of ways they are similar and different.



Describe how the ideas you are studying apply to your own experiences or memories. As you go through your day, make connections to the ideas you are learning in class.



HOLD ON!



Make sure the way you are explaining and describing an idea is accurate. Don't overextend the elaborations, and always check your class materials or ask your teacher.



Work your way up so that you can describe and explain without looking at your class materials.



RESEARCH

Read more about elaboration as a study strategy

McDaniel, M. A., & Donnelly, C. M. (1996). Learning with analogy and elaborative interrogation. *Journal of Educational Psychology, 88*, 508-519.

Wong, B. Y. L. (1985). Self-questioning instructional research: A review. *Review of Educational Research, 55*, 227-268.



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LEARN TO STUDY USING...

Interleaving

SWITCH BETWEEN IDEAS WHILE YOU STUDY



HOW TO DO IT

Switch between ideas during a study session. Don't study one idea for too long.



Go back over the ideas again in different orders to strengthen your understanding.

TOPICS
A B C



STUDY
SESSION
1

TOPICS
C B A



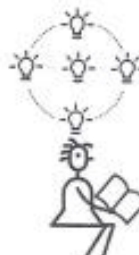
STUDY
SESSION
2

TOPICS
A C B



STUDY
SESSION
3

Make links between different ideas as you switch between them.



HOLD ON!



While it's good to switch between ideas, don't switch too often, or spend too little time on any one idea; you need to make sure you understand them.



Interleaving will feel harder than studying the same thing for a long time. But don't worry - this is actually helpful to your learning!

RESEARCH

Read more about interleaving as a study strategy

Rohrer, D. [2012]. Interleaving helps students distinguish among similar concepts. *Educational Psychology Review*, 24, 355-367.



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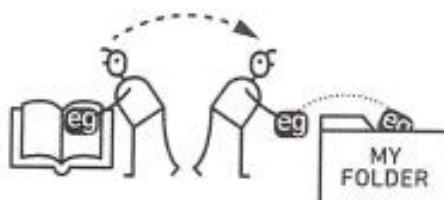
LEARN TO STUDY USING... Concrete Examples

USE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES TO UNDERSTAND ABSTRACT IDEAS

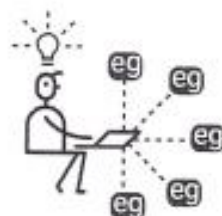


HOW TO DO IT

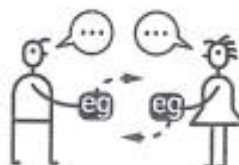
Collect examples your teacher has used, and look in your class materials for as many examples as you can find.



Make the link between the idea you are studying and each example, so that you understand how the example applies to the idea.



Share examples with friends, and explain them to each other for added benefits.



HOLD ON!



You may find examples on the internet that are not used appropriately. Make sure your examples are correct - check with your teacher.



Ultimately, creating your own relevant examples will be the most helpful for learning.



RESEARCH

Read more about **concrete examples** as a study strategy

Rawson, K. A., Thomas, R. C., & Jacoby, L. L. (2014). The power of examples: Illustrative examples enhance conceptual learning of declarative concepts. *Educational Psychology Review*, 27, 483-504.



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LEARN TO STUDY USING ...

Dual Coding

COMBINE WORDS AND VISUALS



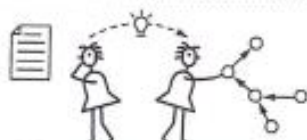
HOW TO DO IT



Look at your class materials and find visuals. Look over the visuals and compare to the words.



Look at visuals, and explain in your own words what they mean.



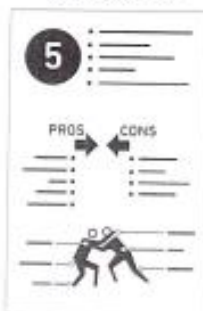
Take information that you are trying to learn, and draw visuals to go along with it.



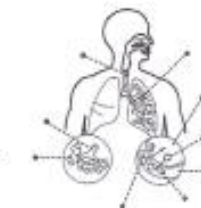
HOLD ON!

Try to come up with different ways to represent the information visually, for example an infographic, a timeline, a cartoon strip, or a diagram of parts that work together.

INFOGRAPHIC



CARTOON STRIP



DIAGRAM

TIMELINE



GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Work your way up to drawing what you know from memory.



RESEARCH

Read more about dual coding as a study strategy

Mayer, R. E., & Anderson, R. B. [1992]. The instructive animation: Helping students build connections between words and pictures in multimedia learning. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 4, 444-452.



Today saw the last curriculum lessons for the school year.

Next week is enrichment week.



This morning after our assembly the decision was made to change the schedule for next week due to the weather.

Sports day will now be on Thursday 18th July. Sixth Form students will take part in activities on Thursday morning and the planned bowling trip will still go ahead on Thursday afternoon.

Therefore, on Monday students and staff who are yet to book in their PDP sessions can do this.

Monday 15th July – PDP sessions and culture day

Tuesday 16th July – Trip to Bath (details below) or PDP sessions

Wednesday 17th July – PDP sessions

Thursday 18th July– Sports day in the morning and bowling in the afternoon.

Sixth Form Sports day will finish at 12 to allow travel time to the bowling alley.

Students are to make their way to Hollywood bowl for 1pm.

Friday 19th July – all students expected in school.

The academic year will finish at 12.30 on Friday.

BATH TRIP DETAILS:

Don't be late!

DATE OF TRIP: Tuesday 16 July

DEPART FROM SWINDON STATION: All Students need to be there by **9.30 AM** to register and collect your tickets
Outbound Train leaves at **09.58** to arrive for **10.20**

DEPART BATH: Return Train leaves at **15.13** to arrive at Swindon for **15.38**

Students need to get themselves there and home
You can bring packed lunch or buy in Bath



UCAS

This week we completed our launch of the UCAS application process to parents.

Thank you for all those that came.

If you were unable to make it the presentation and parent guides are linked below:

UCAS parents' evening presentation

<https://www.ucas.com/advisers/help-and-training/toolkits/2025-cycle-toolkit#information-for-parents>

Parent. Guardian and carer guide 2024.

<https://www.ucas.com/file/715336/download?token=iNdDS9YI>

Parent and guardian guide to apprenticeships.

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/parent-and-guardian-guide-apprenticeships>



Tutors, students and parents are now aware of the UCAS hub update, and we have demonstrated the personal statement builder tool.

Students need to ensure they have started answering the questions and building their evidence ready for the first draft of the personal statement in September.

6th Form PE, Physical Activity & Sport provision 24-25

The idea:

- Provide more physical activity opportunities for 6th form pupils.
- Increase physical activity & movement for pupils.
- Continue to develop a love of healthy, active lifestyles.

The plan:

- 1 hour staffed practical activity sessions.
(2 hours per block per fortnight)
- Pitch up and play environment.
- Access to facilities, leadership opportunities.
- Termly rotations & changes of activities.

The extra bits:

- Options for competitive RWBA representative teams in key sports.
- Extra opportunities through after school clubs.

GIVE US
YOUR IDEAS





The Sixth Form leadership team would like to know which charity you would be interested in supporting over the next year. We have selected a few as a group, and there will be a survey next week asking you for which you would like to help. Here is some information about each one.

Just a reminder - please can you complete the MS Form before the end of term to decide on the Sixth Form Charity. <https://forms.office.com/e/9Pv2HRg0gr>

The Veteran's Army



Veterans Army is a charity founded in 2021 by Ryan Yates, a former soldier who suffered from PTSD after his time in the military. After witnessing many friends and colleagues suffer with mental health and losing former colleagues to suicide, Ryan decided to combat his mental health in the public domain and help others suffering in the same way. The charity offers support to Veterans across the country who may be struggling with PTSD, addiction, homelessness, or unemployment. They offer this support through providing therapy, training courses and rehabilitation programmes. Veterans Army are currently receiving no government funding and are always keen for support in achieving their mission of giving the ex-service people the unparalleled support and recognition they deserve.



The Rotary Club

The rotary club are an international charity that encourage fundraising within Royal Wootton Bassett, working to give back to the local community, working to tackle homelessness, youth crime, food poverty and supporting veterans as well as hosting weekly meetings to raise awareness. They have a strong focus on social activities and bringing people together.



Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Wiltshire air ambulance was founded in 1990 and provides lifesaving transport to hospitals for critically injured patients in Wiltshire and Bath. With their new site being formally opened by Queen Camilla in December 2018. In 2023, they attended 1,167 incidents, 646 of which were attended by the helicopter and 521 were attended by two road vehicles, including 181 missions in Swindon. In 2024 the charity announced that their yearly costs had risen to £4.5 million, which is over £12,000 a day.

Cancer Research UK



Cancer Research UK is a prominent charity dedicated to cancer research and awareness in the United Kingdom. It funds extensive research to uncover the causes of cancer and develop new treatments, while also improving existing ones. In 2022/23, cancer research raised a total of £719 million. This money went to helping vast numbers of people who are affected by cancer, a disease that affects one in two of us.

Young Minds



Young Minds is a charity focused on children's and young people's mental health. It provides support and resources to young people struggling with mental health issues, ensuring they receive the help they need. The organisation also works to raise awareness about the importance of mental health, advocating for better mental health services and policies. Young Minds also offers guidance to parents and caregivers, helping them support their children's mental well-being. Through these efforts, Young Minds aims to create a society where young people feel valued and empowered to get the mental health support they deserve.

MEDIC MENTOR



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our goal is to help students become happy, well-adjusted medical and dental students. With the transition onto medical and dental courses presenting challenges that often lead to high dropout rates, we provide mentoring, support, and guidance to ensure they are fully prepared for their studies and new life at university.

As part of our commitment, we're inviting your year 13 students to attend our free "Transitioning into Medical/Dental School" conference on Sunday 21st July, from 11am -2pm.

Register via the link below for the live event or opt for e-learning for FREE:

<https://airtable.com/appV717EwnblfNUGi/shrilzGTuXqFruQgl>

During this conference, I will give students an insightful overview of what to expect going into their first semester, as well as some myth-busting and Q&A on any concerns and questions they may have. We'll also be covering:

- What to expect at university
 - Student Finance
 - How to budget
 - Working alongside studies
- Pro's and con's of living away from home

- University essentials
- Preparing for placements
- Extracurriculars and experiences
- Leadership opportunities & scholarships
- Making friends and networking
- Practical tips including recipes, cleaning and self care
- Maintaining a work-life balance
- Reapplication & next steps for unsuccessful applicants

This conference has been tailored specifically for year 13 students who are at the end of their academic year, supporting and guiding them through those initial first steps into medical school. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to gain further insights into the first year at university.

Unable to attend? Do not worry! We'll record the event so you can access the essential information for a successful start to your university journey. Register via the link below for the live event or opt for e-learning!

Register for the Transitioning into Medical School conference on Sunday 21st July or for the recording of the event for FREE:

<https://airtable.com/appV717EwnblfNUGi/shrilzGTuXqFruQgl>

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to drop me an email education@medicmentorfamily.org or call our team on 01530 417299. Thank you for working with us to make a difference to your students.



SPEAKERS
for schools

STREAM INSPIRATION

COMPOSING AND PRODUCING MUSIC FOR A CAREER WITH DAVID LOWE

David Lowe
Music Composer & Producer

Discover music for TV, radio & more

TALK

9:45 – 10:45am
18th July 2024

The event card features a portrait of David Lowe wearing glasses, with the word 'TALK' in large, stylized letters to the left. The background is a mix of orange and purple.

Bring **David Lowe**'s music journey to your classroom.

Learn from David Lowe's extensive experience in TV, radio, and beyond, highlighting his successful career in music composition and production.

Gain insights into the creation of recognisable pieces like the BBC news intro and music for various programmes, including current affairs, factual, wildlife, and entertainment shows.

Thursday 18th July | 09:45am - 10:45am | KS3-5 S1-6

[Sign-up now](#)

Live

Inspirational Talk
Levison Wood

Explore stories and insights from a world-renowned adventurer
10 – 10:45am · Monday 15th July

The event card features a portrait of Levison Wood, with the text 'Live' in a red box at the top left. Below the portrait is the title 'Inspirational Talk' and the name 'Levison Wood'. At the bottom, there is a description and the date/time.

Join explorer **Levison Wood** as he shares incredible stories from his global expeditions. Discover the transformative power of challenge and adventure.

**Monday 15th July |
10:00am - 10:45am |
KS3-5 / S1-6**

[Sign-up now](#)

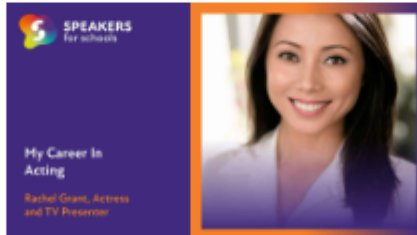
BROADCAST VIDEO LIBRARY

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BROADCAST VIDEO LIBRARY



Industry Spotlight with Helen Chapman, Barrister and Part Time Judge, BIC

Watch Now



Rachel Grant, actress, TV presenter, entrepreneur, and former Bond Girl

Watch Now



Industry Spotlight with Kio Briggs, Author, Artist and Founder of Gifted, by Nature

Watch Now



Join **Chris Tams**, Director at BPI, representing UK's music industry, for insights into music business, industry representation, and music's societal impact. Ideal for music-passionate students.

Tuesday 16th July |
10:00am - 10:45am |
KS3-5 / S1-6

Sign-up now



Don't miss **David Lowe's** journey in music, from TV to radio, creating iconic pieces like the BBC news intro. Learn about building a successful music composition career.

Thursday 18th July |
09:45am - 10:45am |
KS3-5 / S1-6

Sign-up now

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/>



Apprenticeships TV Programme



I wanted to let you know about a special TV programme announcing the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers for 2024, which will be of interest to your Sixth Form students and those considering their post-16 options.

The live 90-minute programme will include a full countdown of the nation's top apprenticeship employers, interviews with apprenticeship managers and current apprentices, and analysis of the latest apprenticeship opportunities – from entry-level to degree apprenticeships.

The programme will also feature specially filmed reports on apprentices at employers across the country, including apprentices who worked on the BBC's election night coverage last week.

Because of the General Election, this year's broadcast is a little later than usual, so the programme is being broadcast out of term-time – at 2pm on Thursday 25th July.

To watch the programme live, or on catch-up please register here:

https://topapprenticeshipemployers.co.uk/?i=app_launch_of_new_rankings

The Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers is produced annually by Highfliers Research, on behalf of the Department for Education.

Photography Workshop opportunity



Historic England

Historic England are planning to host a photography workshop on our site in **Swindon on Monday 29th July** as part of the wider Signal Festival for 16–18-year-olds

This is a local amazing opportunity to develop skills and interests. If you are interested, please sign up. It is suitable for all students but if possible, particularly ones who are doing the arts? Here is the link:

<https://www.signalfestival.co.uk/events/photography-workshop/>



Online Career Insight into Social Work on 16 July 2024 at 6pm (Yr 10-13)

Want to make 'A' difference in the lives of children and young people? Want to get a deeper insight into the social work sector? Join the first event of our insight series, where we will be joined by a trained children's social worker and a care experienced young person. You will learn more about the role of a social worker, develop a better understanding of the impact a social worker can have, and hear more about how Approach Social Work can start your journey towards a life-changing career.

This is what you can expect from the 'Insight into social work' online event:

Hear from a dedicated children's social worker about the daily challenges and rewards of the profession

Listen to a care-experienced young person share their journey and the profound impact social workers have had on their life

Develop a understanding of what it means to be a social worker and the critical role they play in society

Learn how Approach Social Work can equip you with the skills, knowledge and support to embark on a fulfilling career in social work.

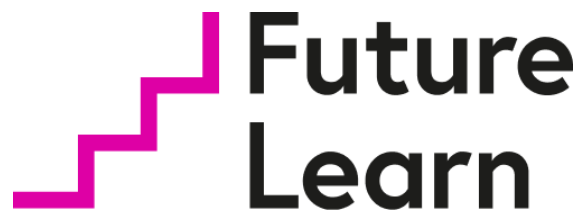
Have your questions answered by our recruitment team.

https://thefrontline.org.uk/become-a-social-worker/approach-social-work/career-events/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Approach%20leads%20%20Insight%20into%20social%20work%20%203&utm_content=Approach%20leads%20%20Insight%20into%20social%20work%20%203+CID_d292007e71ae45bf18f8dd43676230b7&utm_source=CampaignMonitorMarketing&utm_term=Register%20for%20Insight%20into%20social%20work



What are the top CV skills employers look for?

If you're looking to boost your employability, having the right skill set is essential. Discover what skills employers value most and take your CV and career to the next level.



Discover our CV-boosting courses like this and many others. Click on the link below.

Sharpen your skills with our collection of courses designed to help you ace that interview and thrive in the workplace.

https://www.futurelearn.com/info/blog/what-are-the-top-cv-skills-employers-look-for?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fl_marketing&utm_term=240709_GNL_CV-SKILLS&ctID=NDk4NA%253D%253D



We have just taken on our first Level 3 Business Administration apprentice via Wiltshire College. This apprentice is based two days a week in the RWB office and three days a week in our Fleet office.

We wish to expand this and are looking to take on a second Level 3 Business Administration apprentice, who will be based full time in our RWB office. **We are looking for someone who has just completed their A levels and is looking to start a career within a Wealth Management environment.**

As a company that has been involved with RWBA over the years we would like to offer this opportunity to you first, would you have any students that may be interested in this? There would be an interview process involved and we reserve the right to turn down any student that we feel would not be suitable for the role or us as a company.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further.





Are you interested in a medicine or healthcare role?

Want to study a course with high employability prospects, strong career paths and full funding?

Then join Swansea University's NHS Careers Open Day at our beachfront Singleton campus to:

Find out more about our range of NHS funded programmes including: Nursing, Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, Healthcare Science, Operating Department Practice and Paramedic Science

Discover our Pathways to Medicine programme, for those who want to become doctors

Meet lecturers, chat with students and explore Swansea

WHAT WILL WE HAVE ON OFFER?

Attend a Subject Session where you'll find out more about your chosen subject, meet academics, and see teaching facilities

Attend a Welcome Talk with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to learn more about Swansea

Get a real feel for University Life on a Campus Tour with a current student

Take a Sports Tour with a current student to see the range of facilities on offer

See what options we have for living on-campus with an Accommodation Viewing

Have questions about your subject? Speak to staff and students at the drop-in Faculty Information Fairs

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/swanseauniversity1/1269672>



Wiltshire
Community
Foundation



GRANTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We provide a range of grants that support the education and development of young people in Wiltshire and Swindon:

SWEF BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE GRANTS

Grants of up to £2,000 for those aged 18 to 30 who are either running or setting up their own business or who are self-employed.

UNIVERSITY BURSARIES

Grants of £1,600 for under 24s to support the costs of studying their first undergraduate degree course at a UK university.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING GRANTS

Grants of up to £1,000 for 14 to 24 year olds to support the costs of vocational training for courses at school, college or sixth form or for training through an apprenticeship.

To find out more call **01380 738989**

go or to wiltshirecf.org.uk/grants-and-support/individuals/

Registered charity no. 1123126