



COLFOX BULLETIN 7

HEADTEACHER NEWS

Yesterday evening I met with people from all parts of Bridport to launch 'Cradle to Career', a 10-year whole community approach to raising young people's life chances in Bridport. Cradle to Career is a community-led, place-based approach designed to support children and young people through every stage of life, from birth to adulthood & employment. Schools play a vital role in children's lives, but we know that many of the challenges young people face – such as poverty, mental health pressures, educational disadvantage and limited opportunities – cannot be solved by schools alone. It takes a community working together. Bridport has an incredibly strong community which makes me optimistic that Cradle to Career will thrive here, more info below and also at: colfox.org/cradletocareer I hope many of you will join this community effort. Thanks and congratulations to our wonderful Mr Dummackin! Have a good weekend, **Adam Shelley Headteacher**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Week Beginning 15/6/26
Week B

Wed - Year 11 Prom Symondsburry students arrive from 6.30pm

Wed - until 25 June Sixth Form Summer Art Exhibition - Bridport Arts Centre

Fri - Sixth Form Summer Ball Bridport Golf Club from 7pm

You can now follow us on Facebook
Colfox PE is on Instagram



WATER SPORTS FESTIVAL IN POOLE, ART EXHIBITION LAUNCH, Y5 TASTER DAY FUN!

Come to our
Art Exhibition @
Bridport Arts Centre
Free Entrance!



SUMMER EXHIBITION
Photography, Fine Art, Sculpture & Mixed Media

17-25 JUNE
2026

BRIDPORT ARTS CENTRE

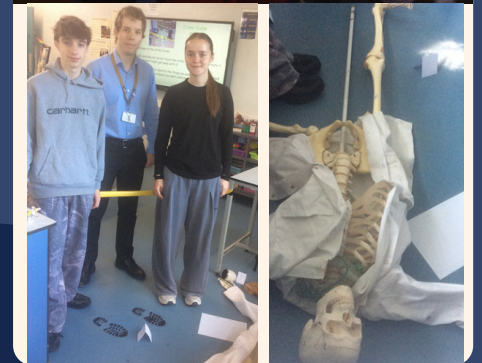
BEAMINSTER SCHOOL & THE SIR JOHN COLFOX ACADEMY



Watersports festival fun!



Welcoming Y5 for fun Taster Days!
Thanks to our wonderful Sixth Formers for helping with the 'crime scene!'



SUPPORT COLFOX - BUY A RAFFLE TICKET!



Some fantastic prizes have been donated for our Summer Raffle!



Every penny will be used to enrich our students' lives.

[Buy a ticket here](#)

MR DUMMACKIN HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR A COMMUNITY HERO AWARD!



We are very proud that Mr Dummackin, Colfox's Young Carers Champion, has been nominated for a MYTIME Community Hero Award. MYTIME, young carers charity, said: 'The nomination is a reflection of the difference you've made to the lives of young carers.'

colfox.org/youngcarers

THE CHALLENGES IN BRIDPORT

THAT CRADLE TO CAREER SEEKS TO OVERCOME



Too many children face barriers that limit their potential. These challenges are connected – and they start early.

1. POVERTY & ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

Too many families are struggling financially.

4.2 million
children in poverty
in the UK

1 million
children living in
destitution

21%
of children in Bridport
South live in relative
poverty

£8,500
income gap between
the richest and
poorest areas

Poverty impacts health, learning, wellbeing and life chances.

2. GAPS START EARLY

Disadvantage begins long before school.

55% more A&E visits
for children in the
most deprived areas

29% of children in the least
affluent areas have
untreated tooth decay
(vs 15% in affluent areas)

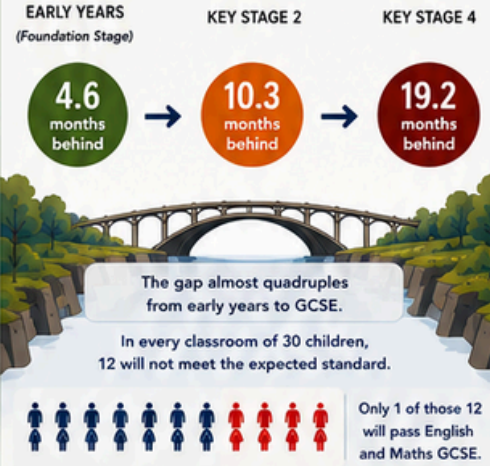
2x obesity levels in reception
aged children in most
deprived areas

2x less likely to reach a good
level of development
by age 5

Early gaps in health and development create a harder start in life.

3. THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP GROWS

The longer we wait, the wider the gap becomes.



Lower attainment limits choices, confidence and future opportunities.

4. WELLBEING & MENTAL HEALTH PRESSURES

More children are struggling with their emotional health and wellbeing.

- Rising anxiety, worry and low self-esteem among children and young people
- Increased demand for mental health support and early help
- Sleep, diet and lifestyle challenges impact learning and behaviour
- Staff and families under pressure, leading to stress and burnout

Poor mental health affects learning, relationships and life outcomes.

OUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



Different challenges. Connected causes. Without change, potential is lost and communities suffer.

5. UNSAFE SPACES & COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Some areas of Bridport feel unsafe for children and young people.

- Concerns about safety in Borough Gardens and other public spaces
- Anti-social behaviour and lack of activities for young people
- Children and families want to feel safe, respected and heard
- Safety impacts attendance, wellbeing and community pride

Unsafe spaces reduce freedom, confidence and community connection.

6. LIMITED EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

Young people are unsure about their futures.

- Limited awareness of local job opportunities and career pathways
- Skills mismatch between education and local workforce needs
- Low aspiration and confidence about future careers
- Risk of long-term unemployment and economic inactivity

Without clear pathways, young people leave – or get left behind.

7. FRAGMENTED SERVICES & SYSTEMS

Families face a confusing system.

- Services are not always joined up
- Families have to repeat their story and navigate multiple agencies
- Long waits for support
- Early help not always reaching those who need it most

When systems don't connect, children fall through the gaps.

8. SEND & ADDITIONAL NEEDS CHALLENGES

Too many children with SEND do not get the right support, when they need it.

- Rising numbers of children with additional needs
- Long waiting times for assessments and support
- Inconsistent provision and specialist support
- Families feel stretched, unsure and unsupported

Delays and gaps in support affect learning, wellbeing and life chances.

WHY THIS MATTERS

- Lower educational attainment
- Poorer health and wellbeing
- Reduced life opportunities
- Greater cost to communities
- Cycle of disadvantage continues

OUR SHARED VISION

Every child in Bridport is safe, known, supported and inspired to achieve. A community where families thrive and young people have real opportunities to succeed.



Different challenges. One solution: working together from cradle to career.
STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS • COHERENT EDUCATION • CONNECTED SYSTEMS
 Together, we can give every child the best start and the best chance for a brighter future.



HOW WE OVERCOME THE BARRIERS IN BRIDPORT TOGETHER, FROM CRADLE TO CAREER

A 10-YEAR PLAN TO GIVE EVERY CHILD THE BEST START AND THE BEST CHANCE FOR THE FUTURE



OUR APPROACH: THREE PILLARS WORKING TOGETHER



1. EDUCATIONAL COHERENCE

A coherent, purposeful education from cradle to career

- ✓ Coherent curriculum from early years to post-18
- ✓ Strong transitions between every stage
- ✓ High quality teaching, reading and SEND support
- ✓ Skills for life, work and local opportunities
- ✓ Raising aspirations and ambition for all

GOAL: Every child has the knowledge, skills and confidence to thrive.



2. RELATIONSHIP COHERENCE

Strengthening the human fabric of schools and communities

- ✓ Key adults for every child
- ✓ Powerful partnerships with families
- ✓ Restorative, relationship-rich practice
- ✓ Inclusive culture rooted in respect
- ✓ Youth voice and meaningful participation

GOAL: Every child feels safe, known, valued and supported.



3. SYSTEMS COHERENCE

Building local ecosystems of support with schools at the heart

- ✓ Joined-up services around local needs
- ✓ Early help and support that is easy to access
- ✓ Stronger partnerships across sector
- ✓ Family, community and employer engagement
- ✓ Shared ownership and local leadership

GOAL: Every child and family gets the right support at the right time.

OUR 10-YEAR PLAN: FROM FOUNDATIONS TO FUTURE SUCCESS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
FOUNDATION	DESIGN	BUILD CAPACITY	IMPLEMENT	EXPAND	INTEGRATE	INNOVATE	IMPACT	SUSTAIN	LEGACY
(Years 1-2)	(Years 2-3)	(Years 3-4)	(Years 4-5)	(Years 5-6)	(Years 6-7)	(Years 7-8)	(Years 8-9)	(Years 9-10)	(Year 10+)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to community and map needs • Build strong relationships and trust • Create clear shared vision and priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design solutions with families, young people and partners • Design coherent curriculum and pathways • Plan joined-up services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train and equip staff and partners • Embed relational practice • Develop local leadership and governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out key initiatives • Embed systems and routines • Focus on early years and school readiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend support across all settings and ages • Strengthen employer and community links • Grow youth voice and participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen integrated working • Share data and insights to drive improvement • Align resources to local priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test and scale what works • Drive innovation in learning and support • Adapt to emerging needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure outcomes and impact • Reduce gaps in attainment and wellbeing • Strengthen economic and community impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed sustainable funding and structures • Build local champions • Ensure long-term resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong, connected Bridport for future generations • Every child has the best start and best chance • A thriving, fair and inclusive community

CONTINUOUS: LISTENING • LEARNING • IMPROVING • WORKING TOGETHER

HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

CROSS-CUTTING ENABLERS



POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Families, schools, council, NHS, businesses and community working as equal partners.



EVIDENCE & INSIGHT

Using data and local insight to understand needs and measure what matters.



YOUTH VOICE & CO-PRODUCTION

Young people help shape decisions that affect their lives.



ALIGNING RESOURCES

Pooled budgets and resources focused on shared outcomes.



EQUITY & INCLUSION

Targeting support for those who need it most to close gaps.

OUR PRIORITY ACTION AREAS



EARLY YEARS & SCHOOL READINESS

Support from pregnancy to age 5 so children start school ready to learn.



LEARNING & ATTAINMENT

High quality teaching, reading, SEND support and smooth transitions.



WELLBEING & MENTAL HEALTH

Early help, emotional support and healthy lifestyles for all.



SAFER COMMUNITIES

Safer public spaces, positive activities and strong community connections.



CAREERS & OPPORTUNITIES

Local careers education, skills and employer pathways for all young people.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- ✓ More children start school ready and confident
- ✓ The attainment gap closes at every stage
- ✓ Improved health, wellbeing and resilience
- ✓ Safer communities with more opportunities
- ✓ More young people in education, training or good employment
- ✓ Stronger families and reduced financial hardship
- ✓ A thriving local economy that works for all
- ✓ Bridport is a place where every child can thrive



OUR FINAL GOAL



EVERY CHILD IN BRIDPORT IS SAFE, KNOWN, SUPPORTED AND INSPIRED TO ACHIEVE.

A COMMUNITY WHERE FAMILIES THRIVE AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE REAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED.

THIS IS OUR COMMITMENT



One community



Shared purpose



Long-term commitment



Better futures for all

TOGETHER, FROM CRADLE TO CAREER

We can give every child the best start and the best chance for a brighter future.



STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS • COHERENT EDUCATION • CONNECTED SYSTEMS
TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A BRIDPORT WHERE EVERY CHILD CAN THRIVE.



BRIDPORT CRADLE TO CAREER

ONE COMMUNITY • ONE VISION • EVERY CHILD • EVERY FAMILY • EVERY FUTURE

THE PROBLEMS WE MUST SOLVE



CHILDREN EXPERIENCE THESE PROBLEMS AS ONE LIFE.

THE CRADLE TO CAREER SOLUTION

Working together across three core pillars



OUR SHARED STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



OUR 10-YEAR JOURNEY



Continuous learning, data and feedback inform our decisions and keep us focused on what works.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE



RELATIONSHIPS + EDUCATION + SYSTEMS + COMMUNITY = OPPORTUNITY

Together we build a Bridport where every child can thrive.

A-LEVEL

SUMMER EXHIBITION

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**17-25 JUNE
2026**

**BRIDPORT ARTS
CENTRE**

**BEAMINSTER SCHOOL & THE
SIR JOHN COLFOX ACADEMY**



BRIDPORT ARTS CENTRE
9 SOUTH STREET
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DORSET
DT6 3NR



The Sixth Form