

Inspiring Dementia Action

in Bristol Schools

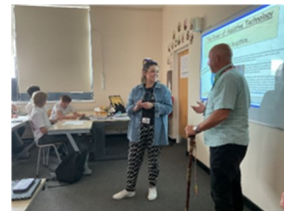
September 2025



Terms 5 and 6 were very busy with approximately 2500 pupil interactions, including more engagement with Secondary and schools who were new to the programme. 2024-2025 was a very successful year overall - thank you for all your engagement and for helping to make Bristol a more inclusive and supportive city. Dominance of schools engaging typically continues to be in North and South Bristol, so we would love to see more schools in Central and East Bristol become involved. If you would like to arrange a session for this academic year, please do get in touch: sally.townsend@alzheimers.org.uk. There are a number of bookings already in place which is great news!

Collegiate

It was a joy to deliver a presentation to the Year 9 students at Collegiate school, co-delivered by a visitor sharing their lived experience of dementia. Following the presentation, students were asked to devise an assistive aid to support people living with dementia. Designs were judged by the visitor according to the design's creativity, use and practicality, and individual reports were written and feedback to students. The project was shared nationally with Alzheimer's Society's Innovation team, who also gave thanks to the students and shared the project across their social media channels. Not only did the project give purpose to the visitor, but it gave real meaning and value to the students' work. Perhaps an innovator of the future will have been inspired! Thank you to the staff at Collegiate for your creative thinking and commitment.



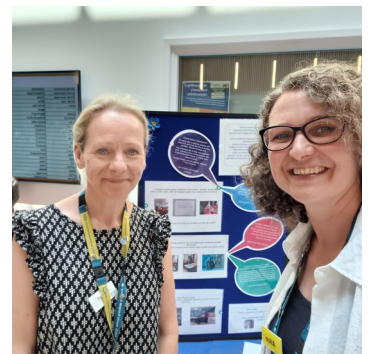
School Engagement

Pupils and staff in Primary and Secondary schools engaged during Terms 5 and 6. Thank you to the following settings, in particular:

Cabot Learning Federation
Cheddar Grove Primary
Collegiate
Glenfrome Primary
Oasis Academy Brislington
Redland Green
Redmaids High
Stoke Bishop Primary
Westbury-On-Trym Academy

Cabot Learning Federation

Thank you to Cabot Learning Federation for the invitation to their Multi Academy Trust INSET day. We were delighted to run a workshop and stand, educating and supporting staff about dementia, as well as advising upon ways to educate and support pupils. Feedback was very positive, with a clear impact being seen. As one member of staff said: "I have learnt that it is still worth making beautiful memories- even if they don't last long- the feeling of happiness will remain."



Dementia information and support



Bristol Dementia Wellbeing Service provide extensive support for people affected by dementia who have a GP in Bristol. Alzheimer's Society provide extensive support for people affected by dementia both locally and nationally. For more information and support for children, families and staff, please scan the QR codes.



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The following poem has been written by John, one of our visitors with lived experience of dementia who regularly joins sessions in school.

What if...?

What if all children could magically know why some people's memories might be broken or slow?

What if some adults can show them the way? Through lessons and questions in classrooms, one day?

Coming from my home and over that bridge, I remembered the note that I left on my fridge.

It told me this week I had new friends to see, in the schools around Bristol, just waiting for me.

Sometimes with the grown-ups, things don't go so well, so I brought my dementia to show and to tell.

It's a glitch that makes thinking a little unclear, but dementia's not scary or something to fear.

The facts and the info are told at the start, then I answer your questions and open my heart.

I bring out my drawings, then play a short tune, to show that dementia is not all just gloom.

They asked me about all my days and routines, my favourite foods and my travelling dreams.

The children all listened as we made them aware, their empathy blossomed, and they learned how to care.

No fear and no stigma, we chatted a lot, we just talked dementia, what it is and what it's not.

Learning that it's not always bad every day, we can keep doing fun things and even still play.

The teachers sow seeds into all children's needs, and we all watch them grow as they learn and succeed.

And not just today, but for all days that follow, we together discover a brand new tomorrow.

To all of the schools, I just want you to know, how the kindness and passion you all clearly show

Has given me the courage to do more each day and to help other children as I journey my way.

Dates



September 1st—30th Vascular disease awareness month

September 5th—International day of charity
September 15th-21st National Inclusion week

September 21st-World Alzheimer's day

October 10th-World Mental Health day

November 13th-World Kindness day

November 21st-Carers' Rights day

Fundraising opportunities

ELF DAY!

Elf Day is back and will be taking place at the start of December (or a date to suit you!). If your school would like to join in the festive fun, [sign up here](#) for your free fundraising pack which contains all you need to get started including posters, Elf name generators and quizzes. Every pound raised from your Elf Day makes a huge difference to the lives of people affected by dementia.

Looking for more ideas and inspiration?

Get in touch with your local community

fundraiser: zena.jones@alzheimers.org.uk.