THE LOWDOWN

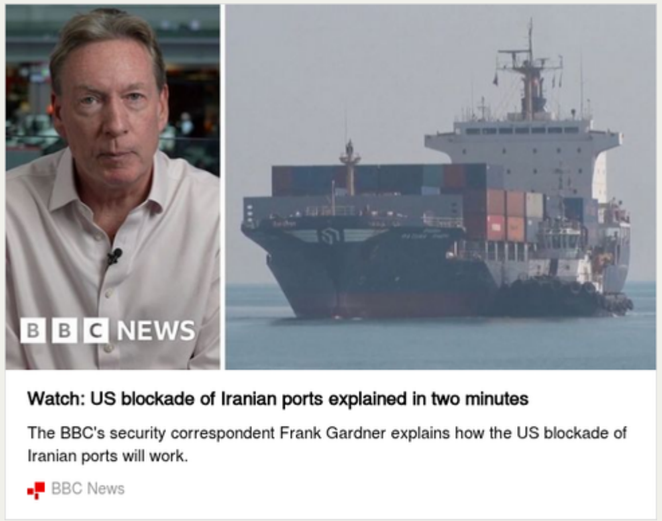
20TH APRIL 2026

GLOBAL

DISRUPTION IN MAJOR TRADE ROUTES COULD INCREASE PRICES

Key Shipping routes carry oil, gas, and supplies used worldwide.

Around 35% per cent (20 million barrels) of global oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz daily. Disruption can impact fuel, food, and energy prices.



GLOBAL TENSIONS HIGH AS COUNTRIES CONTINUE TALKS TO AVOID WIDER CONFLICT

Talks are happening between Israel, Lebanon and the US, but recent negotiations have broken down.

Peace talks between the US and Iran collapsed recently. Other countries, including Pakistan, are encouraging discussions to prevent escalation.



Fuel prices have stopped rising after 43 days of increases.

Fuel costs impact deliveries, transport, and overall cost of living.

NATIONAL



DID YOU KNOW?

Emergency bleed kits have been installed around the country. In North Somerset there are 103 kits, including some at our campuses.

999 operators talk you through how to use the kits in an emergency.



Bristol student appears in court after fatal stabbing of housemate.

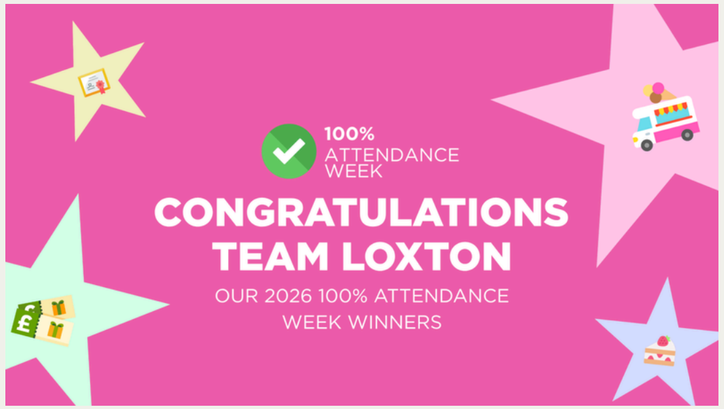
Knife crime remains a concern with ongoing efforts to reduce violence and improve safety.

THE LOWDOWN

20TH APRIL 2026

COLLEGE

Weston College Named as a Technical Excellence College for Advanced Manufacturing





AWARENESS CALENDAR

Stress Awareness Month 2026

Nearly 91% of employees have faced high stress or workplace pressure in the past year.

Nearly 69% UK students have experienced stress, with exam pressure and financial worries as key concerns.

People experience stress in different ways.

Stress isn't avoidable but it is manageable. A key action in order to minimise risk is to identify stress-related problems as early as possible, so that action can be taken before serious stress-related illness occurs.

GOOD NEWS

Golden eagles are poised for a comeback in England after the government backed plans to reintroduce them.





10.01% of ocean is now officially under conservation measures – up from 8.6% in 2024, United Nations Environment Programme confirms.

"We all depend on the ocean for our survival; over half of the world's oxygen is produced by life in the ocean," said Neville Ash, director of UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre, "this is a moment for celebration."