



14 July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Industrial Action**

I am sure you will have seen the welcome news in relation to teachers' strikes and other forms of industrial action. The government has announced that it will follow the advice of the independent pay review board and Teachers' Unions are likely to recommend that members accept the improved pay offer.

Crucially, we have been told that the government will 'properly fund' the new pay award. This is welcome but it is not the same as saying that the pay settlement is 'fully funded'. 3% of the 6.5% pay rise will be funded by new money from government but 3.5% will come from existing school budgets. Schools will still be facing the need to cut spending significantly as a result of previous pay awards that were not fully funded as well as because of other rising costs, including energy prices.

I am optimistic, however, that this marks the end of a very difficult period of industrial dispute and disruption to children's education: I would like to thank all the Backwell School community for their understanding and support during this time.

### **Runwell**

This year's *Runwell* programme had its finale on Wednesday. Year 7 students were inspired by the lecture from Ben Smith, who made headlines in 2015/16 by completing 401 marathons in 401 days! Students were spared the poor weather and it was uplifting to see 270 students and their tutors running for a full 20 minutes in the afternoon. It was equally pleasing to talk to some of the pupils and hear them explain the ethos behind Runwell, sharing their understanding of the importance of physical exercise for one's mental health. I would like to thank Anna Randall and her team for inventing and overseeing a thoroughly worthwhile programme. In the coming two years, these young boys and girls will add to their knowledge of techniques to support their mental health with sessions called "Breathewell" in Year 8 and "Wild and Well" in Year 9.

### **Sports Day and Sports Awards Evening**

Our final opportunity to run Sports Day this year will be next Thursday 20 July. Before that, on the evening of Tuesday 18 July, I look forward to seeing many of you at our Sports Awards evening where we celebrate the achievements, both in and out of school, of hundreds of Backwell pupils.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes  
Headteacher

## MESSAGES

### Last day of term

On Friday 21 July school will finish at 1.40 pm. The departure time of the school coaches has been brought forward accordingly. It will also be a non-school uniform day in aid of the [Za Foundation](#) and students are asked to donate a minimum of £1.00 to take part. As always, we would ask that clothing is appropriate to wear in a school setting and that no hair dye is worn. Thank you.

### Summer 2023 Public Exam Results

AS and A level results day - Thursday 17 August from 8.00 am

GCSE results day - Thursday 24 August from 10.00 am

All students who took public exams this summer will be emailed a copy of their results to their school email address on the dates shown above. Students should check for an email the day before the results day that will give details of the password they will need to access their results.

Please note the following:

- Students will be able to access their school email on results day even if they are abroad. If they need access from abroad on a different date they will need to email IT to request this.
- Students are also welcome to come into school at the times shown above to collect a paper copy of their results.
- If you would like someone else to pick up your results for you, they will need to bring a signed letter from you giving them permission to collect on your behalf.
- There will be members of staff available on both results days to discuss results should this be necessary.
- Enquiries About Results – there are various post-results services available if you have concerns about your results. All students will be emailed an information sheet with their results. These documents are also available on the school website under the [Curriculum/Exam arrangements/Results Day 2023](#) tab.

### West Side Story - Auditions

We are pleased to announce that in February 2024 we will be staging '*West Side Story*' as our whole school production. Auditions for roles will take place next term on Wednesday 13 September and Thursday 14 September. Auditions are open to students in all year groups (except the new Year 7s). If your child is interested in auditioning for a role, they will find all the audition materials they need to prepare (including links to YouTube tuition videos) on [Frog](#) via: FROG > Subjects > Performing Arts > West Side Story Audition Page. The cast list will be released on Friday 15 September, and rehearsals will take place after school starting on Monday 18 September and continuing every Monday and Wednesday until the show starts in February.

### Sports Awards Evening - Tuesday 18 July

Tickets for the Sports Awards Evening should have all been distributed to the students involved this week, so please see Mr Moore on Monday if you have not received yours. Tickets for students in Year 11 with no siblings at school were posted home on Friday. On Tuesday, the awards evening will start at 7.00 pm in the main theatre, with refreshments served from 6.30 pm. There will be a raffle

on the day, with prizes including tickets to The Hundred at Lords, home matches at Bristol City FC and Bristol Bears, as well as vouchers to The Wave and West Country Water Park. The raffle tickets will cost £5 per strip and will be **cash only**.

### Something to shout about!

Take a look at our 'Latest News' page on the school website where you can read about recent successes and trips. This weeks' highlight is the Modern Languages Departments' success at the National finals of the Modern Language Spelling Bee in Cambridge.

Please [click here to read more](#).

### Uniform Ordering

If your child has outgrown their uniform and you are looking to order new in readiness for the start of September, Price and Buckland have issued some useful information about how to measure and order online. They also advise that to ensure delivery before the start of term you will need to place your **order before Tuesday 1 August**. Please click on the following link to [view the information from Price and Buckland](#).

### Lost Property

Don't forget to ask your child to come to Student Services to check the lost property racks for jumpers, polo shirts, PE kits, water bottles, coats etc etc. Anything of value, such as glasses, purses/wallets, jewellery and phones, are held in the PA's office. All unclaimed items will be disposed of at the end of the term.

### Vaccination Catch-Up Clinics

If for any reason, your child has missed out on the recent vaccinations that have taken place at school, then Sirona Healthcare, North Somerset's school nursing team, has advised that they will be running some catch-up clinics as follows:

**For Years 9, 10 and 11** - Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccination catch-up clinics are available for Year 9, 10 and 11 students who did not receive their vaccinations at school, clinics are running throughout the summer holidays. Please book an appointment at <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/dtp/2022/book?v=1.6> If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email [sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net](mailto:sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net)

**For Years 8, 9, 10 and 11** - HPV vaccination catch-up clinics are available for Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 students who did not receive their vaccinations at school, clinics are running through-out the summer. Please book an appointment at <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/hpv/2022/book> If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email [sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net](mailto:sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net)

### Careers Bulletin

Please find below a link to the Careers Bulletin on our school website. This includes a section on careers resources, events and support, including the school's careers platform, Unifrog.

[Current careers events and opportunities – 14 July 2023](#)

If you have any queries regarding the future plans Mrs Ball can be contacted on her school email [cball@backwellschool.net](mailto:cball@backwellschool.net) at please take a look at the following webpage for details on the careers programme at Backwell School: <https://lspcareers.org.uk/backwell-school-2/>

### Holiday Activities for Long Ashton Residents

From Tuesday 26 July Long Ashton Youth Club will be running a programme of activities for Long Ashton residents over the summer holiday period. There will be four days of fun filled activities for young people age 8+ including graffiti workshops, tie dye and action-packed trips to Mendip Outdoor Pursuits!

If your child is eligible for **Free School Meals**, and you live in **BS41**, these activities are **free of charge**. If you live in Long Ashton but are not entitled to Free School Meals you can still sign up for the programme – costs are outlined on the programme details attached.

To sign up please Email [Kimberley.epicyouth@gmail.com](mailto:Kimberley.epicyouth@gmail.com) for a booking form

### Coding Club and Python Workshop

Finally you will also find attached information about the Coding Club which will continue in September, together with information about a Python Workshop to build a chat bot that is being run at Yatton Library on 27 July.

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday 18 July	Sports Award Evening
Wednesday 19 July	<a href="#">A Level PE trip to 'The Wave'</a>
Friday 21 July	Last day of term and non-school uniform day in aid of the Za Foundation. School finishes at 1.40 pm
Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 September	INSET day ... school is closed to students
Wednesday 6 September	Staggered start ... Students in Years 7 and 12 return to school
Thursday 7 September	Staggered start ... All students in school
Wednesday 13 September	West Side Story Auditions – Jet and Shark male roles, 3.20 – 5.30 pm in Sixth Form Theatre
Thursday 14 September	West Side Story Auditions – Jet and Shark female roles, 3.20 – 5.30 pm in Sixth Form Theatre

For further trips and events, please see the ['Calendar' page](#) on the school website.

Quick link to [Parents' Handbook 2022-23](#)

## LETTERS HOME

[Sixth Form Bulletin for week commencing 17 July](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students





**Long Ashton**  
**Youth Club**  
**SUMMER**  
**ACTIVITIES**

**Fun activities and workshops delivered by qualified and experienced staff**

**Lunch, snacks and transport to Mendip Outdoor Pursuits included**

**Email [kimberley.epicyouth@gmail.com](mailto:kimberley.epicyouth@gmail.com) for a booking form – spaces limited!**

**£25 PER DAY FOR YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS**  
**£30 PER DAY FOR NON MEMBERS**

**25TH JULY**  
11am–3pm  
Graffiti and tie dye workshops  
Age 8–school year 6

**26TH JULY**  
11am–5.15pm  
Activities and sports at the Community Centre followed by Paddleboarding at Mendip Outdoor Pursuits, Hewish School years 7–12

**1ST AUGUST**  
11am–3pm  
Graffiti and tie dye workshops  
School years 7–12

**2ND AUGUST**  
11am–5.30pm  
Climbing and bushcraft at Mendip Outdoor Pursuits, Churchill  
Age 8–school year 6





# Codingbug

inspiring the next generation of coders & makers

## Coding lessons in September 2023

Join our popular online coding club and learn to code. If you are already coding, come along and advance your coding skills.

### Code in Python (Online), Mondays 5pm - 6pm

Join us online on Mondays and learn to code 'live' in Python. Our students learn the principles of the Python programming language. They create programs from scratch and learn to problem solve, debug and collaborate with their peers. You will use professional editing tools and develop your Python skills. Beginners and more advance coders welcome.

For more information and to register visit:

<https://codingbug.co.uk/code-in-python/>

```
main.py x +
1 '''
2 A simple weather check
3 '''
4 #asks a question to the user
5 weather = input('What is the weather forecast
6 today? rain/snow/sun ')
7
8 #checks whether it is raining, snowing or sunny
9 if (weather == 'rain'):
10     print('Don\'t forget to take your umbrella')
11 elif (weather == 'snow'):
12     print('It is snowing today, don\'t forget to
13     wrap up warm')
14 else:
15     print('It is sunny today! Take your
16     sunglasses')
```

```
> Console x Shell x +
What is the weather forecast today? rain/snow/sun sun
It is sunny today! Take your sunglasses
>
```

Contact Gicela at: [info@codingbug.co.uk](mailto:info@codingbug.co.uk) or call 07909 226520

*"I received lessons from Gicela throughout my GCSEs, during which she was a great tutor and helped me develop my programming skills far beyond the course. It put me far ahead of the class and no doubt contributed a large part to my grade 9 in Computer Science GCSE, of which a large part of the course is programming" – GCSE Student.*

For more information about Codingbug, visit:

<https://codingbug.co.uk>



[facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/codingbug)



Inspiring the next generation of coders and makers

# CODING WORKSHOP



For more information visit:  
[codingbug.co.uk/make-a-chatbot-in-python/](https://codingbug.co.uk/make-a-chatbot-in-python/)

## MAKE A CHATBOT IN PYTHON

Learn to code your first chatbot using the python programming language.

This 3-hour workshop is suitable for children aged 10 and above.

### WHERE

Yatton Library  
BS49 4HJ

### WHEN

Thursday 27th July 2023  
From 9:45am - 12:45pm

# [codingbug.co.uk](https://codingbug.co.uk)

Email: [info@codingbug.co.uk](mailto:info@codingbug.co.uk)

Call: 07909 226 520



[facebook.com/codingbug/](https://facebook.com/codingbug/)