



22 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Backwell Open Evening**

We had an exceptionally positive and busy Open Evening on Thursday. There were two speeches to prospective parents, carers and their children from the Headteacher and two of our Head Student team. In both cases, at 5pm and 7pm, the main theatre was completely full, both upstairs and down. In between these talks, year 6 students were able to visit different subject areas and learned about what Backwell School would be like in year 7. The feedback at the end of the evening seemed overwhelmingly positive and there are now daily visits on offer every day for the rest of term for those who wish to see the school in action on a regular timetabled day.

### **Rail Strikes – Wednesday 4 October**

We have been informed that there are two planned rail service strike dates coming up. These are Saturday 30 September and Wednesday 4 October. The latter will have an impact on students traveling to and from school.

If your child uses North Somerset's Home-to-School Transport Service via train, then the NS transport team will be in contact with you directly to update you about the transport replacement for Wednesday 4 October.

If your child uses the train, as public transport, to travel to school, there will be no replacement bus service organised on this day and you must organise alternative transport provision for your child to travel to and from school on Wednesday 4 October.

### **Frog Access – Parent Portal**

We are aware that some parents may have been experiencing a few issues recently with the Frog Parent Portal.

If you are struggling to set up your Frog Parent Portal, please ensure the step-by-step instructions are followed (please [click here to read](#)). If you are still struggling, please let us know (via email to [mailbox@backwellschool.net](mailto:mailbox@backwellschool.net)) if you have previously ever had an account before at the school (ie an older child who attended Backwell School who has since left). This could mean your existing account has been archived. If this is the case, we can organise for our IT support team to unarchive your account and resolve the issue.

If you have been experiencing issues when using the Parent Portal to view your child's assignments (and have been unable to do so), apologies for this. This is an ongoing issue currently being investigated by the Frog technical team who have informed us that a patch is required to resolve this problem. This is being worked on and hopefully will be resolved very soon. Many thanks for your patience.

There are some more key notice and reminders for you below.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes  
Headteacher

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## MESSAGES

### Parents' Information Evenings

The Year 13 parent's information took place this week on Wednesday 20 September. For those parents/carers who were unable to attend the presentation is available to view on the school website by clicking on the link below:

[Year 13 parents' information evening presentation.](#)

There was an error in the Year 11 presentation where the dates for the Year 11 trial exams were given as 14 – 18 November. This should have read 13 – 17 November. This has been corrected and the revised presentation has been uploaded to the website and available on the link below:

[Year 11 Parents' Information Evening presentation.](#)

All the Parents' Evening presentations will remain on the school website for future reference, either under 'Curriculum' tab then select 'Key Information for GCSE (KS4)' for Years 10 and 11, or under the 'Sixth Form' tab, Useful Documents.

### BSA Quiz Night

Event reminder: Backwell School Association quiz night on Friday 6 October from 7.30pm (Quiz starts at 8.00 pm)

Tickets are now on sale on [Parentpay](#). Please purchase your tickets, then email your team details to [charl.clarke@sky.com](mailto:charl.clarke@sky.com) as follows:

Team name:

Individual team members names - strictly 6 max per team:

Preferred drinks per person:

One contact number for the team:

Closing date for entries is Friday 29 September.

We hope to welcome lots of parents on this fun-filled evening raising money for the school. Ideally get yourselves into teams of six or let us know and we can unite you with others into a team

We will also be fundraising on the night with a raffle so if you have a raffle prize you could donate please bring it to the school office or message the BSA on [mailbox@backwellschool.net](mailto:mailbox@backwellschool.net)

## Aidbox – A reminder!

As part of our ongoing support for Aidbox Community in Bristol (<https://www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk/>), we are urgently collecting used (and new) backpacks for adults and children. To donate, please bring into school and take to Reception or the English office. Please can we ask that they are:

- freshly washed
- in good condition with no tears
- all zips working

We are also collecting baby and kids' blankets (all kids, e.g. cellular, fleece, knitted, etc.). Please can these be freshly washed and in good condition so they can be passed straight to the families we support. They would also appreciate small toys/games suitable for teenagers - e.g. fidget toys, tennis balls, packs of cards, etc.

Aidbox and their service users would like to pass on their thanks to all of you who have made donations.

## 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 – 22 September 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/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 28 September	<a href="#">Year 11 Geography field trip to Bristol Temple Quarter</a> (Groups 11Y and 11Z)
Friday 29 September	<a href="#">Year 11 Geography field trip to Bristol Temple Quarter</a> (Groups 11W and 11X)
30 September – 2 October	Duke of Edinburgh Silver assessed expedition – Black Mountains
Thursday 5 October	<a href="#">Year 7 Parent Tutor Evening</a> <a href="#">Year 8 Parent Tutor Evening</a> Both take place online from 4.00 – 6.45 pm
Friday 6 October	BSA Quiz Night, 7.30 pm in the main theatre. Tickets available on ParentPay.
Thursday 19 October	Year 7 Musical Performances

Friday 20 October	Last day of Term 1
Monday 30 October	First day of Term 2 (Week2)

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

Quick link to [Parents’ Handbook 2023-24](#).

## LETTERS HOME

[Sixth Form Bulletin for week commencing 25 September](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 12 Key Dates](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 12 students

[Year 13 Key Dates](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 students

[Changes to HPV Vaccination Programme](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 9 - 11

[Year 10 Performing Arts Trip to ‘Peter Pan Goes Wrong’](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 Performing Arts students

[Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2023-24 Enrolment \(Year 9\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 9 students

[New Attendance Policy](#) – All parents/carers

[Year 7 Baseline Assessment](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 7 students

[Year 13 A Level Photography 2023-24: Year 2](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 Photography students

[Year 10 – GCSE Photography 2023-25](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 Photography students

[Year 13 A Level Art, Craft and Design 2023-24: Year 2](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 Art, Craft and Design students

[Year 10 GCSE Art and Design 2023-25](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 Art and Design students

[Year 7 Parent Tutor Evening: Thursday 5 October](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 7 students

[Year 8 Parent Tutor Evening: Thursday 5 October](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 8 students