



29 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Please find below messages for your information, together with the calendar of upcoming events and details of letters sent home during the course of the last week.

Please click on the link to open the letter on the school website. Please note that all current letters, including those from previous weeks, can be found on the [Letters Home page](#) of the school website.

MESSAGES

Rail Strikes Reminder - Weds 4 October 2023

Please be reminded about the upcoming **Rail Service Strike** on Wednesday 04 October. This will have an impact on students traveling to and from school on that day.

- If your child uses **North Somerset 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 04 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 04 October.

Parent Tutor Evening – Years 7 and 8

A reminder that bookings for the Parent Tutor Evenings for Years 7 and 8 opened last night. If you haven't already done so, please log on to the parents' evening system to book your appointment. The letters below contain all the information you need, including the link to the system and instructions on how to book and attend an appointment.

[Year 7 Parent Tutor Evening: Thursday 5 October](#)

[Year 8 Parent Tutor Evening: Thursday 5 October](#)

FROG Parents' Portal

If you have any queries accessing the FROG Parents' Portal, please follow the link below to our new updated instructions for parents and carers:

[Frog Parents Portal - Getting Started](#)

School Photographs

(Years 7, 10 and 12)

Have you ordered your school photos yet? This is just to let you know that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Sunday 8 October**. You can order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

Many thanks.

Locker Rental

The locker company, RML, has advised us that there is still plenty of locker availability on the school site. This is an entirely new system, run by RML who are independent from the school; they supply, manage and maintain all the lockers at school. The school does not make any money from the system. If you would like to know about how it all works you can find out more in the [letter sent home](#) and via their website: [Locker Rentals - Rent My Locker](#).

Backwell School's Olympic Torch Relay

With the summer Olympic Games in Paris next year, the PE department would like to create Backwell School's very own Olympic Torch Relay.

We have several small inflatable torches that we would like students and staff to take all over the country, or world, and take a picture of themselves holding the torch. For example, pictures at famous landmarks, sporting events, concerts or anywhere in different countries would be ideal. Over the summer, our staff have already taken the torches to various locations in Europe and Asia.

If you would like to take a photo with the torch somewhere, please see Mr Moore in the PE Department or in the Sixth Form.

A Reminder re Absences

Is your child sick? If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform us as soon as possible. Please send a message via email to absence@backwellschool.net or alternatively contact us by calling 0125 463371 and selecting Option 1 where you can leave a voicemail message. Please ensure you give your child's full name, tutor group and date of expected return. It is important to notify us on a daily basis if your child is not going to be in.

Does your child have a dental or doctor's appointment? You can also use the absence@backwellschool.net email address to inform us of an upcoming medical or dental appointment.

Do you have an exceptional absence request? If you wish to request an exceptional absence from school for consideration, please complete the online form which can be [found on the Contact Us page of our website](#). This could include things such as Ten Tors or external music or dance exams. However, please note, that the following reasons will **not** be considered as exceptional: visiting

relatives, cheaper holidays, family day trip, visiting friends/family that have different holiday periods, because a child has good attendance.

Careers at Backwell

There are a number of Careers events and activities that take place throughout the school year that enable our students to make informed decisions about their next steps. Please see this letter from the Careers Team which highlights some of the support that is available both to students and parents/carers and which also includes a request for your participation in our Careers events.

Click here to read more: [Careers Support at Backwell School](#)
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 – 29 September 2023](#)

If you have any queries regarding the future plans Mrs Ball can be contacted on her school email 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/>

Vacancies within the Trust

Are you a highly organised administrator with a good eye for detail and processes? Would you like to work in the local area in a job that can offer flexible hours, including some remote working? The Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) has a vacancy that may be of interest to you: Have you considered becoming a Clerk to a School Governing Body?

Full training and support can be given for this rewarding role which helps ensure our schools are compliant and enabling local children to achieve their best. The LSP has schools across North Somerset, including those in Long Ashton, Portishead and Nailsea, who are looking for someone to support their governing body from 4 - 16 hours a week.

To find out more, including how to apply, [please click here](#). Deadline for applications is 9.00 am on Monday 2 October 2023.

UPCOMING EVENTS

30 September – 2 October	Duke of Edinburgh Silver assessed expedition – Black Mountains
Thursday 5 October	Year 7 Parent Tutor Evening Year 8 Parent Tutor Evening Both take place online from 4.00 – 6.45 pm
Friday 6 October	BSA Quiz Night, 7.30 pm in the main theatre. Tickets are now on sale on Parentpay . Please purchase your tickets, then email your team details to charl.clarke@sky.com

Wednesday 11 October	BSA AGM, 6.00 – 8.00 pm in the Conference Room at school All parents/carers welcome!
Thursday 19 October	Year 7 Musical Performances
Friday 20 October	Last day of Term 1
Monday 30 October	First day of Term 2 (Week2)
Thursday 2 November	Sixth Form Open Evening 5.00 – 7.00 pm
Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 November	Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Years 7 – 11) Link to consent form below. Deadline for completion: Thursday 2 November. https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2023/consent?v=1.23
Wednesday 8 November	Year 10 Performing Arts trip to see 'Peter Pan Goes Wrong'
Wednesday 22 November	Inset Day – School closed to students.
Thursday 30 November	Year 10 Parents' Evening

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 2 October](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Sixth Form Open Evening \(2024 Entry\): Thursday 2 November](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

[Careers Support at Backwell School](#) – All parents/carers

[Year 8 Sparx Reader](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 8 students

[GCSE Mathematics Exam Preparation Material](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

[Year 10 and 11 GCSE Art Textiles Contribution](#) – Parents/Carers of Years 10 and 11 Art Textiles students

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

[Year 10 GCSE Photography Contribution](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 Photography students

[Year 12 and 13 A Level Art Textiles Contribution](#) – Parents/Carers of Years 12 and 13 Art Textiles students

[Year 12 A Level Photography Year 1 Contribution](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 12 Photography students

[Year 12 A Level Art, Craft and Design Year 1 Contribution](#) - Parents/Carers of Year 12 Art, Craft and Design students

[Year 13 A Level Photography Year 2 Contribution](#) - Parents/Carers of Year 13 Photography students

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