



6 October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

This week's school tours for year 6 students and their parents/carers have been extremely well-received. It is always gratifying to receive so many positive comments about our student tour guides. We ask sixth formers and Year 8 pupils to lead the tours and, although they have no script and rarely take part twice, they invariably 'wow' the parents with their knowledge and enthusiasm.

Our sixth formers – and their enthusiasm for school – will also be front and centre as we prepare for the Sixth Form Open Evening. Parents and carers of Year 11 pupils: please check that you have kept your diaries free for Thursday 2 November! Before then, Year 11 pupils will be given information about all the post-16 destinations from which they will choose, including apprenticeship opportunities, college courses and Sixth Form study. If Year 11 pupils are considering A Levels or other 'Level 3' courses, we are convinced that there is no better institution to attend than Backwell Sixth Form – look out for more information to follow in the run up to the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 2 November.

Tonight is the eagerly awaited 2023 BSA quiz, with renowned Quiz Master Steve Clarke at the helm. We anticipate a wonderful evening with significant fundraising for the school. Thanks so much to our BSA members for their work in organising the event and giving up their time to run the bar!

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes  
Headteacher

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## MESSAGES

### North Somerset Home to School Transport

Please could we ask parent/carers of children who use the coaches provided by North Somerset Council to ensure that their children only use their allocated coach route. We have been made aware that some students have been unable use their allotted coach as others have taken their place, leaving no room. Students cannot simply decide to join a friend on their bus, or to catch a different bus to go to a friend's house for tea for example.

The coach companies have been made aware and drivers are being asked to check bus passes, so please ensure that your child brings their bus pass with them every day. It is imperative that students use the correct coach service to ensure the safeguarding of all students.

## Update on Frog

We have been advised that the issues affecting Frog in recent weeks have now been resolved. The Parent Portal should be working correctly, and users should now be able to see their children's assignments correctly.

Many thanks for your patience.

## ParentPay

For the attention of parents of new students into Years 7 and 12

As you may recall there were some issues with the setting up of ParentPay accounts at the start of term. In order to allow your child to purchase food on site we set up credit limits of £5 per day for the first three days; £15 in total. These credit limits are no longer required and will be removed today. Please look at your ParentPay account over the weekend because a negative balance may mean that your child is unable to buy the food of their choosing on Monday.

## School Photographs

(Years 7, 10 and 12)

A reminder that Tempest's deadline for **free delivery** of photographs to school is **Sunday 8 October** ordering school photographs. You can order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit [www.tempest-orders.co.uk](http://www.tempest-orders.co.uk)

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

## Backwell School Association AGM

The Backwell School Association (BSA) will be holding their Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 11 October 6.00 – 8.00 pm** in the Conference Room at school (just by Reception) and all parents/carers are welcome to attend.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved and meet other parents/staff involved with the school and to support the school community ... so please come along!

## 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 – 6 October 2023](#)

[Careers Support at Backwell School](#)

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/>

## Coding Club

Over the past few years, the school has been pleased to support [Codingbug](#) who run a number of coding clubs for children in North Somerset. In addition to their usual online 'Code in Python course', Codingbug are now starting a new in-person '[Coding with Python](#)' club for students in Years 7 -11 which starts on 1 November 2023. This will take place on Wednesday after school from 5.00 – 6.00 pm at the Hangstones Pavillion in Yatton. If your child is interested in joining, all the details about the club can be found on the Codingbug website at: <https://codingbug.co.uk/coding-with-python-club/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 11 October	BSA AGM, 6.00 – 8.00 pm in the Conference Room at school All parents/carers welcome!
Thursday 19 October	<a href="#">Year 7 Music Showcase</a>
Friday 20 October	Last day of Term 1
Monday 30 October	First day of Term 2 (Week2)
Thursday 2 November	<a href="#">Sixth Form Open Evening</a> 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. <a href="https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2023/consent?v=1.23">https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2023/consent?v=1.23</a>
Wednesday 8 November	<a href="#">Year 10 Performing Arts trip to see 'Peter Pan Goes Wrong'</a>
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 9 October](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 11 Revision Materials](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

[A Level Geography – Geography Review and A Level Textbook](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 12 Geography students

[GCSE Geography – Year 11 Revision Support Materials](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 Geography students

[Year 7 Music Showcase: Thursday 19 October](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 7 students

[Music Tuition Lessons – Academic Year 2023-24](#) – All parents/carers

[Year 11 Art, Craft and Design main coursework project](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 Art, Craft and Design students.

[Year 11 Photography main coursework project](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 Photography students

[Year 11 Textiles main coursework project](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 Art Textiles students