



3 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Backwell School is looking appropriately autumnal at the start of Term 2, with attractive collections of colourful leaves and less welcome puddles in evidence across the school site. Fortunately, we missed the worst of storm Ciaran which meant that yesterday's Sixth Form Open Evening was able to go ahead smoothly. We welcomed a very large number of Year 11 students from Backwell and schools from the wider area. Those pupils, with their parents and carers were able to learn what Backwell Sixth Form offers and went away enthused by the opportunities ahead, buoyed up by the enthusiasm of the Backwell sixth formers and teachers they had spoken to.

Enthusiasm was certainly the name of the game when it came to our latest charity fundraising this week. Mr Newall energetically led three consecutive lunchtimes of 'Let's Dance' in the main theatre, raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Hundreds of pupils spent all lunchtime following the complex dance moves shown on the big screen, becoming expert movers to the Halloween-inspired grooves of 'Thriller' and 'Ghostbusters.'

Looking ahead to the week after next, there are two further opportunities for Backwell pupils to show their support and concern for others. On Monday November 13, we will be recognising anti-bullying week by observing 'Odd Socks Day' and on Friday we will be raising money for 'Children in Need' by holding our next non-uniform day. For 'Children in Need,' pupils are asked to donate a pound to support the charity and can wear non-uniform clothing – perhaps including another outing for the odds socks from Monday as we round off 'anti-bullying week'?

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher

MESSAGES

Year 11 Trial Exams

It is good to see our Year 11 student working hard on the run up to their trial exams, which take place from Monday 13 to Friday 17 November. Students will now have received their individual timetables from their tutors, so please look out for that. Parents/Carers should also have received an emailed letter earlier this week all about the Year 11 trial exams which you can [read here](#).

Remembrance

As we do every year, the school is supporting the Royal British Legion by selling poppies and other poppy-related items, such as badges/pins, rulers, poppy zip pulls, lanyards and wristbands, all in aid of the Poppy Appeal. If your child would like to buy a poppy, they can do so either from Reception or from their respective House/Year Group offices. This will be cash only, with a suggested donation of £1.00 for all items, except the badges/pins, where a donation of £3.00 is requested.

Out of Catchment Coach Service

A reminder for parents/carers of students who use our Out of Catchment Coach Service – either from Bristol or Long Ashton – the second instalment was due on 20 October 2023.

If you haven't already done so, please log into ParentPay to bring your account up to date. If you have any queries about this payment, please contact the Finance Office via finance@backwellschool.net or 01275 465941.

Students competing in sport at a representative level

As part of our Sports Award Evening, which takes place annually in the summer term, we like to acknowledge the sporting achievements of our students both inside and outside the school gates, many of whom take part in sports outside the traditional school curriculum. We would therefore be very grateful to hear about any student who is competing in a sport or representing a team, at **District level or higher**. Please email details, including a photo of them in action, to Adam Moore at amoore@backwellschool.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 – 3 November 2023](#)

[Careers Support at Backwell School](#) (Letter sent home in 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/>

SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT!

Our lovely Library team organised a ghost story writing competition during Term 1 and were overwhelmed with the quantity and quality of the entries from both students and staff! You can read more about the event and read the winning student stories on the 'News' page of the school website by clicking on the following link:

[Ghost story competition winners and their stories](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 November	Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Years 7 – 11) Deadline for completion of consent form was 9.00 am Friday 3 November.
Wednesday 8 November	<u>Year 10 Performing Arts trip to see 'Peter Pan Goes Wrong'</u>
Thursday 9 November	<u>Year 12 Business Studies trip to Cadbury House</u>
13 – 17 November	<u>Year 11 Trial Exams</u>
Thursday 16 November	<u>Ski Trip Parents' Meeting</u> , 6.00 pm in the Sixth Form Theatre
Friday 17 November	Children in Need – Non-school uniform day
Wednesday 22 November	Inset Day – School closed to students.
Thursday 30 November	Year 10 Parents' Evening
4 – 7 December	Year 13 Trial Exams
Thursday 7 December	Year 11 GCSE P&R trip to sacred places, Bristol
Thursday 14 December	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 19 December	Winter Concert
Wednesday 20 December	Last day of term and non-school uniform day in aid of the foodbank

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 6 November](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 11 Trial Exams](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

[Year 12 Business Studies trip to Cadbury House](#) – Parents/Carers of students taking CTEC Business Studies

[Pupil Premium Support](#) – Parents/Carers of students eligible for Pupil Premium support