



10 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

On Wednesday afternoon this week, Backwell sixth form students travelled to Gordano school to take part in the inaugural Lighthouse Schools Dodgeball tournament! While arguably not the most serious sporting fixture of the school calendar, it was great to see our students get the chance to interact with other sixth formers in the Trust. This is just one aspect of the wider 'offer' our sixth formers get as part of the LSP – with student leadership conferences and specialised post-18 careers guidance being some of the other ways that we work together with Gordano, Chew Valley and Churchill Schools to enrich the Sixth Form experience for those at Backwell.

Please can I remind parents and carers of two events next week in which pupils are invited to take part? 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday as part of 'Anti-Bullying week' and 'Children in Need' on Friday – there are details below including how to donate.

I know there is quite a lot of information in these weekly emails. As a Backwell parent myself, I would like to particularly recommend having a read of the 'Career's Bulletin'. Regardless of what year your child is in, it is an incredibly useful source of guidance with lots of great opportunities to help pupils acquire valuable knowledge and experience of different workplaces, training and education providers.

Parents and Carers of Year 11 pupils will know that next week sees Trial Exams. Please check that your child has the correct equipment and arrives promptly at the Main Theatre every morning for registration and a pre-exam briefing. We are running a very busy week with full-length exams to give students the best possible preparation for the summer examinations: good luck to all our Year 11 students.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher

MESSAGES

Children in Need

Friday 17 November is 'Children in Need' day when students can wear non-school uniform in exchange for a donation of £1.00 to raise funds for the charity. Normally we would ask students to bring cash for collection during tutor time, and they can still do that if they wish. However, on this particular occasion, Children in Need have linked up with ParentPay to allow parents/carers to pay direct via ParentPay if they wish. This can be done by clicking on the following link:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=11906>

Year 11 students who are undertaking their trial exams will also be allowed to wear non-school uniform, however in the real exams, students will be required to wear full school uniform. As always with non-school uniform days, we ask that clothing is appropriate for a school setting and that no hair dye is worn.

Anti-Bullying Week (13 – 17 November) - Odd Socks Day

Next week, is [Anti-Bullying Week](#) and here at school we will be recognising it by observing Odd Socks Day on Monday 13 November. So why not get your child to dig out those solo socks that have been languishing at the back of their sock drawer, or perhaps don a mix of their favourite novelty socks to show support for this important issue!

Backwell School Association Update ... a message from the Chair

Huge thanks to everyone who supported the BSA with the Co-op Community Fund - our year has just finished and we have raised an amazing £1282! We are working with the school to spend this, and other money, raised on improving the outdoor social spaces outside the new sports hall and hope to have more updates soon.

The BSA run bars to fundraise throughout the year and our next two events are the Winter Concert on Tuesday 19 December and the Sixth Form production of 'Alice in Wonderland' in January, so if you are able to help us on the bar at either (or both!) of these events, please do get in touch via mailbox@backwellschool.net . Alternatively, you can complete our Google form <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdz-N0W02IDnVIYEMtvaWFqelU6bn8fhabLt3f312xUpssyUA/viewform>

Thanks again and kind regards

Ruth MacNeill
BSA Chairperson

Christmas Foodbank Collection

The school is once again collecting items for our local Trussell Trust Foodbank which we know does fantastic work to support local families, including many of our own. We would be grateful if you could support this initiative by donating food bank items including advent calendars to school from now until Thursday 30 November. Please see below for more details about the items that the foodbank are most in need of this Christmas. Please note that this year the foodbank are not asking for present donations, rather for [Aldi orange gift vouchers](#) so that families can make their own choices about presents. If you would like to donate a voucher, please place it in an envelope so that it can be safely stored. All donations should be taken to your child's House office; they will have a blue box where items can be left.

There is a lot more information about the collection in the presentation given to students in Tutor Time. Please click on the following link to view: [Food Bank Presentation](#).

Item wanted:

Tinned meals (spaghetti, chicken or veg curries, chilli)
Tinned soup

Jam and spreads
Shower gel
Shampoo/conditioner
Deodorant
Toilet rolls
Washing up liquid
Laundry detergent pods
Feminine hygiene products
UHT milk
Tinned meat (hotdogs, meatballs etc.)
Tinned fish
Tinned fruit
Sponge/rice puddings
Coffee (small jars)
Long-life juice
Pasta sauce
Tinned veg (potatoes, carrots, green beans, tomatoes)

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 – 10 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/>

Flu Catch-Up Clinics for students in Years 7 - 11

If for any reason, your child did not receive their nasal flu vaccination here at school this week, perhaps due to illness or a school trip, Sirona Healthcare (the School Nursing Team) will be running some catch-up clinics. Parents/carers can book an appointment via the following link:

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2023/book> . If you have any queries, please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

Sponsorship Request

Year 10 student Lucy Ashman has been selected to represent Somerset U15 girls in their forthcoming cricket tour to Sri Lanka in February 2024. To raise fund for the tour, she is looking for businesses who would be interested in buying some advertising space in the tour brochure.

If you, or your business, feel able to support Lucy, please message her for more details on lucyashman4@gmail.com. Costings start from as little as £50 plus VAT.

UPCOMING EVENTS

13 – 17 November	Year 11 Trial Exams
Thursday 16 November	Ski Trip Parents' Meeting , 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 13 November](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students