



17 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Over the next few weeks, we will be using assemblies to talk to students about Palestine and Israel. We have considered carefully how to approach this subject. We want Backwell pupils to be interested in the world around them, to be empathetic to the suffering of others and inquisitive into the causes of significant world events. But we want to do this in a clearly politically neutral way and in a way which discourages generalisation, over-simplification and prejudice. Bearing this in mind, we are using materials from an organisation called 'Solutions not Sides' which aims to tackle Antisemitism, Islamophobia and polarisation around the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. You can read more about the organisation here <https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/>. We hope that their materials will leave Backwell pupils better informed about the complex history of Israel and Palestine and help them navigate for themselves the challenging issues raised by the current crisis there.

I want to congratulate Year 11 pupils on completing Trial Exam week. I am sure that it has been a valuable – and tiring week. The vast majority of students approached the exams with maturity, impressing our Exams Team with their excellent behaviour. We are continuing our push to practise for all aspects of the summer examination season by having a trial 'Results Day' on Friday 8 December. Pupils will receive their full set of results that morning with their Tutor and Head of House on hand for support and celebration!

A reminder that next Wednesday (November 22) is an INSET Day. Teaching staff at Backwell are traveling to Gordano School to meet with colleagues from other LSP Schools for a day of training which includes a significant focus on 'Universal Provision': how classroom teachers ensure they meet the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher

MESSAGES

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated to our fundraising efforts for Children in Need today. The ParentPay/Children in Need donation page will remain open for a couple of weeks, so if you would like to make a donation you can still do so via the link below:

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

Coach Passes

Following a series of spot checks carried out by the coach companies on student bus passes recently, please could we remind parents/carers that all students using the coach service MUST have their passes ready to present to the driver on their journey to and from school, and it is also important that they only use the coach service allocated to them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 10 parents' evening will take place on Thursday 30 November. Parents were emailed earlier this week with details of how to book and attend the online parents' evening. The booking system will open at 6.00 pm on Thursday 23 November for parents to make appointments with their child's subject teachers. Please click on the link below to read the letter sent home:

[Year 10 Parents' Evening letter and instructions](#)

Foodbank Vouchers

Our FSM students are able to claim a lunch bag from the Clevedon Foodbank over the Christmas period. If you'd like a voucher to make use of this facility, please let your child's pastoral leader know before Friday 8 December (please email mailbox@backwellschool.net). Clevedon Foodbank asks parents to aim to collect their school meal bags on Friday 15 December. They are open from 12.30 to 2.30 pm. and will also be open on Friday 22 December but with a skeleton staff, so it would be helpful if parents could come on the 15th if possible.

Household Support Fund

In the next week or so we will be issuing a £60 voucher to parent/carers of students who are eligible for help under the government's Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF). This funding comes from the DWP Household Support Fund and not from the school or the council. If you have any queries about help over the school holidays please take a look the [HAF programme](#), contact email for enquiries and HAF codes is: HAF@n-somerset.gov.uk

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 - 17 November 2023](#)

Please visit our dedicated Careers website to read all about our Careers programme, including information on work experience, careers guidance, mock interviews and post-16 and post-18 study options. Careers website: <https://lspcareers.org.uk/backwell-school-2/>

If you have any queries regarding the future plans Mrs Ball can be contacted on her school email cball@backwellschool.net

Christmas Foodbank Collection

Thank you so much for all the donations that have been coming in for our local foodbank, the Trussell Trust, which does fantastic work to support local families, including many of our own. We will continue collecting donations of food bank items at school until Thursday next week (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)	Long-life juice
Tinned meat (hotdogs, meatballs etc.)	UHT milk
Tinned fish	Feminine hygiene products
Tinned fruit	Shower gel
Tinned soup	Shampoo/conditioner
Tinned veg (potatoes, carrots, green beans, tomatoes)	Deodorant
Sponge/rice puddings	Toilet rolls
Coffee (small jars)	Washing up liquid
Pasta sauce	Laundry detergent pods
Jam and spreads	

North Somerset Consultation

North Somerset Council are holding a drop-in community event where residents, businesses and local groups are welcome to put forward their views and comments on a number of suggested design improvements for the Backwell area.

Improvements are planned as part of the '**Bus Service Improvement Plan**' scheme. North Somerset Council received £48m from the Department for Transport to help make bus travel easier, faster and better coordinated across the North Somerset area. This will help communities, the environment as well as the local economy.

During the drop-in event, visitors will be able to view 'Concept Proposals' which include designs for improved bus stops, bus priority measures as well as a new transport hub. Plans in Backwell will not solely be based on increasing bus usage, but also on how pedestrians, mobility users, cyclists and motorists can better use the area in future too.

Meeting Date: Wednesday 29 November 2023

Location: [WI Hall, Station Rd, Backwell, Bristol, BS48 3QW](#)

Time: 3.30 – 7.00 pm

There's no need to book, turn up any time between 3.30 – 7.00 pm.

Alternatively, if you are unable to attend, you can also view the 'Concept Proposals' online at: [Backwell - North Somerset Council Consultations \(inconsult.uk\)](#).

This link will be available from 13 November for 6 weeks. The council welcome all comments which will help shape future design improvements for the Backwell area. This is an opportunity to get involved and make a difference at the very early stages. All feedback will be reviewed and considered by North Somerset before creating a more detailed proposed plan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 22 November	Inset Day – School closed to students.
Wednesday 29 November	Student Council Meeting, 8.50 am in the Conference Room
Thursday 30 November	Year 10 Parents' Evening , 4.00 – 6.45 pm online
4 – 7 December	Year 13 Trial Exams
Tuesday 5 December	Year 8 House Match (Rugby/Netball)
Wednesday 6 December	Years 10 and 11 House Matches (Rugby/Netball)
Thursday 7 December	Year 11 GCSE P&R trip to sacred places, Bristol Year 7 House Match (Football/Netball)

	Year 9 House Match (Rugby/Netball)
Friday 8 December	Year 11 trial exam results issued
Thursday 14 December	Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4.00 – 6.45 pm online
Tuesday 19 December	A Level Certificate Presentation, 5.30 pm in 6th Form Theatre Winter Concert, 7.00 pm in the main theatre
Wednesday 20 December	Last day of Term 2 and non-school uniform day in aid of the foodbank
Thursday 4 January	First Day of Term 3
10 – 12 January	Sixth Form Production of 'Alice in Wonderland'
Thursday 11 January	Year 9 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 20 November](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 13 Key Dates 2023-24](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 students

[Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition NEA 2](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students studying GCSE Food and Nutrition

[Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition contribution for materials 2023/24 and 2024/25](#) – Parents/carers of Year 10 students studying GCSE Food and Nutrition.

[Key Stage 3 Design Technology: Contribution](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 7, 8 and 9

[Philosophy and Religion Trip to Sacred Places: 7 December](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 P&R students

[Year 10 Parents' Evening: Thursday 30 November](#) – Parents/carers of Year 10 students

[Music and Performing Arts trip to see 'Wicked'; Wednesday 21 February 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of GCSE and A Level Music and Performing Arts students

[Kooth: Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for Young People](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 7 students