



15 December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

End of term arrangements

Term will end at 1.35 pm on Wednesday 20 December. Coaches will leave school at 1.40 pm.

Pupils will spend tutor time and lesson one in their pastoral units, where there will be a festive assembly organised by their Head of Year or Head of House.

Students in Years 9 to 11 are encouraged to bring some food into school on the last day and can book tables in their House Blocks for an 'American supper' style lunch.

Also on Wednesday, our caterers will be serving a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings for Year 7 students. There will be no lunchtime service for all other year groups. However, the caterers will be serving food at breaktime that day as normal. All other year groups will be able to buy a Christmas dinner from their normal servery on Tuesday 19 December.

We will send home a full, final bulletin of 2023 on Wednesday.

Best wishes

Jon Nunes
Headteacher

MESSAGES

Children in Need Fundraising total and non-school uniform day

We would like to thank parents and carers for their generosity for Children in Need. We raised a grand total of £1458, made up of £850 of online payments to Children in Need direct, and £600 from our usual collection method of £1 cash donations in school.

Then next Wednesday 20 December will be a non-school uniform day, with a Christmas jumper theme, and monies raised from this day will go towards our local foodbank. Students will need to bring in a £1 donation to take part. As normal we would ask that clothing is suitable for a school setting.

Thank you all for your continuing support of our charity fundraising efforts throughout the year!

Winter Concert – Final reminder to book your tickets ...!

A final reminder that our [Winter Concert](#) takes place next week on Tuesday 19 December. Tickets have been selling fast, so if you are yet to book, please do so as soon as possible to avoid disappointment ... it will definitely get you in the mood for Christmas! Students involved in the concert will need to be back at school for 6.30 pm in the theatre so that they can warm up and do any final preparations. Students will need to wear their school uniform for the performance.

Then after Christmas we have our Sixth Form students' production of '[Alice in Wonderland](#)' from Wednesday 10 to Friday 12 January. Rehearsals are in full swing, and the show will bring some much-needed post-Christmas cheer to January! One not to be missed!

Tickets for both events are available to buy from the school's online ticket-booking website [Your Box Office](#)

Enrichment Week 2024

Years 7, 8 and 9 Enrichment Week communications have now all been sent home. All the information can be found on the [Enrichment Week pages](#) of the school website. If you haven't done so already, please could you fill in the Student Essential Information and Behaviour Agreement forms; the links to these forms can be found in the introductory letters sent home (please click on the relevant year group to view the letter sent home [Year 7](#), [Year 8](#), [Year 9](#)). Year 8 Enrichment Week booklets will be handed out in Tutor Time next week. Please could we ask that payment deadlines are adhered to in order to allow the school to make timely payments to the activity and accommodation providers. If the overall cost of Enrichment Week will be a barrier, then please contact the Finance team in the first instance, on finance@backwellschool.net and also take a look at our [Financial Assistance](#) form which can be found on the school website.

Clubs

There will be a new Clubs booklet launched towards February half term giving details of the clubs that will be running during the Spring and Summer. In the meantime, there are a few new clubs starting next term, and there is also an updated Sports Club schedule. Please click on the following links to view the details:

[Pottery Club](#)

[Culture Club](#)

[Spring Sports Schedule](#)

Year 8 HPV Vaccination Programme: Information and Online Consent

All Year 8 students are being offered the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine which works to prevent the most common types of HPV-related cancers, such as cervical cancer, some mouth and throat cancers and some cancers of the genitals. As of 1 September 2023, the vaccination will be given as one injection in the upper arm (students used to receive two doses; one in Year 8 and the other in Year 9). The School Nursing team will be in school on Wednesday 17 January 2023 to undertake the vaccinations.

Please find below a letter from Sirona Healthcare which contains a link to an online consent form for the vaccination. Also in the letter there is a link to a leaflet about the NHS vaccination programme. [HPV Consent Letter](#)

Please read the letter carefully. If you have any questions, please contact Sirona directly: sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net or call 0300 1245515.

Please note that the **deadline** for completion of the consent form is **Sunday 14 January 2023**.

Flu Clinic Catch-Up Sessions

If your child didn't receive a flu vaccination and you would like them to have one, then Sirona Healthcare are running children's catch-up clinics for students from Reception to Year 11. You can book an appointment via [Sirona care & health \(sirona-cic.org.uk\)](https://sirona-cic.org.uk). If you have any queries, please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.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 – 15 December 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 19 December	A Level Certificate Presentation , 5.30 pm in 6th Form Theatre Winter Concert , 7.00 pm in the main theatre
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Wednesday 20 December	Last day of Term 2 and non-school uniform day in aid of the foodbank. School will finish at 1.35 pm.
Thursday 4 January	First Day of Term 3
10 – 12 January	Sixth Form Production of 'Alice in Wonderland' Tickets on sale here .
Thursday 11 January	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Monday 15 January	Year 12 Drama/Performing Arts trip to see 'Metamorphosis' in the Bristol Old Vic
Wednesday 17 January	Year 8 HPV vaccinations Deadline for completion of consent form: Sunday 14 January
Monday 22 January	GCSE and A Level Art Textiles trip to the V&A Museum
Thursday 25 January	Year 9 Options Evening
Tuesday 30 January	GCSE Music trip to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Event
Wednesday 31 January	A Level Sports Science trip , to University of South Wales. Year 11 Parents' Information Evening, 6.00 pm

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 18 December](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[A Level Textiles trip to the V&A Museum: 22 January 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of A Level Textiles students

[Year 11 GCSE Textiles trip to the V&A Museum: 22 January 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of GCSE Textiles students

[Year 9 Parents' Evening: Thursday 11 January 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 9 students

[Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 9 students