



5 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Wishing a very Happy New Year to all the Backwell School community. I hope you and your families have had a peaceful and healthy holiday.

2024 has begun calmly at the school, which has thankfully, avoided the most damaging impact of the recent relentless rain.

In the next two months we are anticipating, with high levels of expectation, two productions on the stage of the Backwell theatre. Next week's Sixth Form student production of 'Alice in Wonderland' takes place on Wednesday 10, Thursday 11, and Friday 12: tickets can be purchased here:

[https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/backwell-school/Alice in Wonderland](https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/backwell-school/Alice%20in%20Wonderland)

Our whole school production of 'West Side Story' is happening on four nights from Tuesday 6 February to Friday 9 February. Tickets are due to be released for sale at the end of next week.

These productions are just one of many reasons why Backwell Sixth Form remains the best place to study A levels or equivalent qualifications in the region. Today was the deadline for applications for Backwell Sixth Form for September 2024. However, please don't worry if your Year 11 child has not yet applied, we will accept late submissions – but please remind students to complete the process straightaway as next year's timetable is largely determined by the subject choices made at this stage.

Best wishes

Jon Nunes
Headteacher

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MESSAGES

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Our Year 9 Parents' Evening takes place online next Thursday 11 January from 4.00 pm to 6.45 pm. The appointment booking system will open at 6.00 pm this evening (Friday 5 January). Please [click here](#) to read the letter sent home, which includes a link to the parents' evening booking system, together with instructions on how to book and attend appointments.

Sixth Form Production of 'Alice in Wonderland' (10 – 12 January) ... Final Call!

Don't forget our Sixth Form students' production of '[Alice in Wonderland](#)' is taking place next week with performances on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings at 7.00 pm in the main theatre. There is still plenty of ticket availability, so if you haven't yet bought your tickets, there is still time. Tickets cost £8.00 for adults and £6.00 for concessions and can be bought via the school's online ticket-booking website [Your Box Office](#)

Sixth Form Applications

A reminder that today (Friday 5 January) is the deadline for applications for a place in the Sixth Form in September 2024. You can find out more about our sixth form offering on the school website by [clicking here](#). This includes a link to the online application form for completion.

Year 10 Mock Interview Day – Thursday 25 January

As part of their careers education programme at Backwell School, we are very pleased to let you know that on **Thursday 25 January** every student in Year 10 will have a 10-minute mock interview in school with a local employer. Students are being prepared for this interview experience via their tutor time programme so will be fully aware of what to expect.

We believe that this will be an invaluable experience and expect every student to participate; there will be support in place for any student likely to find this task challenging, so please contact your child's tutor if you have any concerns in this regard.

In the week prior to their interview, students will be told the individual time of their interview via their tutor. We would be grateful if you could help us by talking to your child about this opportunity and reminding them to attend on the day. If you have any queries please contact the school careers adviser, Charlotte Ball at cball@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 – 5 January 2024](#)

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

Year 8 HPV Vaccination Programme: Information and Online Consent

A reminder that on Wednesday 17 January 2024 the school nursing team from Sirona Healthcare will be in school to undertake the HPV vaccinations. 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 has been 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 link to give consent for the vaccination can be found here: [Sirona care & health \(sirona-cic.org.uk\)](https://sirona-cic.org.uk) Please note that the **deadline** for completion of the consent form is **9.00 am** on **Monday 15 January 2024**.

You can find out more about the vaccination programme in the letter from Sirona Healthcare which you can [read here](#). Please read it carefully. If you have any questions, please contact Sirona directly: sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net or call 0300 1245515.

We are recruiting ...

We are currently recruiting for couple of positions:

Invigilators to join our invigilation team. If you have a keen eye for detail and would like to support our students during their examinations, then this flexible role might be ideal for you.

Class Supervisor ... we are seeking someone who has experience of working with young people, with good communication skills and initiative to supervise classes of up to 32 students.

Teaching Assistant ... We are looking for an excellent communicator, with strong IT skills, to support students with additional learning needs.

Full details on all three roles are available to view on our Vacancies page:

[Careers at Backwell School - Backwell, United Kingdom, BS48 3BX | eteach](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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: 9.00 am Monday 15 January
Monday 22 January	GCSE and A Level Art Textiles trip to the V&A Museum, London
Thursday 25 January	Year 9 Options Evening

Tuesday 30 January	Student Council meeting, 8.50 am in the Conference Room GCSE Music trip to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Event A level History trip to Berlin parents' meeting
Wednesday 31 January	A Level Sports Science trip , to University of South Wales. Year 11 Parents' Information Evening, 6.00 pm (<i>Please note, this has been postponed to Thursday 22 February</i>)
Thursday 1 February	Year 13 Parents' Evening
6 – 9 February	Whole school production of 'West Side Story' Performances at 7.00 pm in the main school theatre. Tickets will be on sale soon.
Friday 9 February	Last day of Term 3 - Non-school uniform day in aid of Children's Hospice South-West
Monday 19 February	First day of Term 4

For further trips and events, please see the ['Calendar' page](#) on the school website.

Quick link to [Parents' Handbook 2023-24](#).

LETTERS HOME

[Year 10 GCSE Geography fieldwork trip to the Quantocks](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 GCSE Geography students

[Year 10 GCSE Philosophy and Religion Revision Guide](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 P&R students