



12 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Last night I had the great pleasure of watching the Sixth Form student production of *Alice in Wonderland*. As soon as the audience arrived in the Theatre foyer, which was bedecked in Lewis Carroll-inspired decoration, we knew this was a production that had been planned with care and creativity. The staging was equally marvellous – highlighted by an incredible Cheshire cat, whose eyes and smile were displayed on open umbrellas to stunning effect. The whole cast was confident, convincing and engaging, with wonderful diction. They were helped by great direction, choreography and a really impressive original composition of incidental music. All of this was achieved independently by the students involved – huge congratulations to all of them!

Now our collective appetites are well and truly whetted for the whole school production of *West Side Story* which is happening on four nights from Tuesday 6 February to Friday 9 February. Tickets have been released for general sale today and are bound to be highly sought after: don't miss out, get your tickets here: [Your Box Office](#).

Best wishes

Jon Nunes  
Headteacher

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## MESSAGES

### School Attendance

Over the next few weeks, the school will share with parents how we are supporting the government's initiative to improve school attendance to ensure that all students benefit fully from being in school. So, over the coming weeks, if you follow us on our social media platforms, X or Facebook, you will see a number of posts about attendance with the hashtag #AttendanceCounts, which will make a good discussion point if you are struggling to get your child into school. From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child. Only one third of pupils who attend school less than 90% of the time achieve 9-4 grades in English and maths. 84% of regular attenders achieve this. #AttendanceCounts.

[www.twitter.com/Backwell\\_School](https://www.twitter.com/Backwell_School)  
[www.facebook.com/BackwellSchoolNS](https://www.facebook.com/BackwellSchoolNS)

## West Side Story

Our whole school production of 'West Side Story' will take place from Tuesday 6 – Friday 9 February at 7.00 pm in the main theatre. Tickets cost £12 for adults and £8.00 for concessions and can be purchased through our online ticket site: [Your Box Office](#). A brief synopsis of the show can be found below:

*Young lovers, Maria and Tony, are caught between prejudice and warring street gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, in this seminal retelling of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Transported to 1950s New York City, we explore themes of love, prejudice, and the destructive nature of gang violence. Exhibiting the tragic consequences of hatred and the power of love to transcend societal divisions.*

## Music Tuition lessons

A polite reminder that the payment for Music Tuition lessons during Terms 3 and 4 is due today (Friday 12 January 2024).

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](mailto:finance@backwellschool.net) or 01275 465941.

## Railway Works – Advance Notice

The school has been advised that between Saturday 20 and Sunday 28 January Network Rail will be carrying out improvement works on the railway line between Temple Meads and Weston-super-Mare. They will be putting on a rail replacement bus, and also a limited 'school special' train service. Please click on the following letter for more details: [GWR letter](#) (Jan 2024)

## 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 – 12 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](mailto:cball@backwellschool.net)

## Something to shout about!

Our Year 7 boys' football team have got off to a flying start! You can read all about it on the news page of our school website by [clicking here](#).

## Year 8 HPV Vaccination Programme: Information and Online Consent

Last reminder if you haven't yet given consent for the Year 8 HPV vaccination; the **deadline** for completion of the consent form is **9.00 am on Monday 15 January 2024**. The link for consent can be found here: [Sirona care & health \(sirona-cic.org.uk\)](https://sirona-cic.org.uk)

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](mailto:sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net) or call 0300 1245515.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 15 January	<a href="#">Year 12 Drama/Performing Arts trip to see 'Metamorphosis'</a> in the Bristol Old Vic
Wednesday 17 January	<a href="#">Year 8 HPV vaccinations</a> Deadline for completion of consent form: 9.00 am Monday 15 January
Monday 22 January	<a href="#">GCSE</a> and <a href="#">A Level Art Textiles</a> trip to the V&A Museum, London
Thursday 25 January	<a href="#">Year 9 Options Evening</a>
Tuesday 30 January	Student Council meeting, 8.50 am in the Conference Room GCSE Music trip to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Event <a href="#">A level History trip to Berlin parents' meeting</a>
Wednesday 31 January	<a href="#">A Level Sports Science trip</a> , 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 on sale now via <a href="#">Your Box Office</a> .

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

[Sixth Form Bulletin for week commencing 15 January](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 9 Options – Parents' Information Evening](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 9 students

[French Exchange Trip 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 9 and 10 taking part in the French Exchange

[French Exchange 2024 – DBS Information](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 9 and 10 taking part in the French Exchange

[GCSE Philosophy and Revision Sessions](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 P&R students

[A Level History trip to Berlin](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 History students



**A Backwell School Production**

Book by  
ARTHUR LAURENTS

**WEST SIDE STORY**

Based on a Conception of JEROME ROBBINS

Music by  
LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Lyrics by  
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Entire Original Production Directed and Choreographed by JEROME ROBBINS



Originally Produced on Broadway by Robert E. Griffith and Harold S. Prince

By Arrangement with Roger I. Stevens

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with  
Music Theatre International

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI  
[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

**Tickets**

**£12/£8 concessions**  
**[yourboxoffice.co.uk](http://yourboxoffice.co.uk)**

**6th-9th February 2024 7PM**