



26 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Last night's Year 9 Options Evening was a real pleasure to be involved with. The turnout from Year 9 pupils and their parents/carers was almost 100% and they were able to get a fantastic sense of the choices ahead of them through listening to Mrs Mason's explanation in the theatre and then speaking to teachers and pupils in the 'subject showcase'. It was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic conversations and to hear from pupils and parents alike how useful they found it. Important as GCSE option choices are, it was equally positive to have the opportunity for parents to come into the school and have face-to-face conversations with the school staff. We know that, after primary school ends for your children and especially after the restrictions involved in the pandemic years, the chance to come into Backwell is highly valued by our parents and carers. I will use this weekly bulletin to flag up further opportunities to do just that – starting with a reminder that West Side Story is being performed from 6 to 9 February and a few tickets remain available on [Your Box Office](#).

Today our high-flying Year 7 football team took on Budmouth School in the quarter finals of the national cup. A fine attacking performance, with multiple shots on target, was sadly not matched by the final result: a 0-2 defeat. The team played with great skill and good sportsmanship; congratulations to the whole squad, who I'm sure can look forward to more success in the coming years.

Best wishes

Jon Nunes
Headteacher

* * * * *

MESSAGES

IMPORTANT EXAM INFORMATION – Summer 2024 entries

To help students and parents/carers manage exam entries and exam timetables throughout the year, we are migrating to a new online system called 'SchoolWorkSpace'. This keeps all exam information visible in one place via a Parent/Carer and Student Exam Portal.

We will no longer be issuing paper copies of exam entries or exam timetables.

Students who have entries for Summer 2024 exam season should have received an email earlier this week asking them to sign in to this new system to check and confirm their details and entries. Parents/carers were also sent an email inviting them to check and confirm their child's entries. The email contains links on how to access the user guide for the new Exam Portal.

It is important that this is completed by Monday 5 February 2024.

Any changes to entries notified after Monday 5 February 2024 may incur fees.

A key exam information booklet will be issued next week to all students taking exams. Students should be bringing them home to share with you. Look out for it – it's bright orange!

For any queries, please contact exams@backwellschool.net

Thank you
Backwell School Exams Team

Year 9 Options

Our Year 9 Options Evening took place yesterday evening (Thursday 25 January) for parents/carers of students in Year 9 to look at GCSE option choices for study in Years 10 and 11. For those parents/carers who were unable to come, the Powerpoint presentation given by Mrs Mason can also be viewed on the school website by clicking on the link below.

Unfortunately technical issues have meant that we have not yet been able to provide students with a physical copy of the GCSE options booklet, however an electronic version of the booklet can be downloaded from the school website (see link below). Options forms will be distributed via tutors in tutor time next week, so these should also be making their way home over the coming days. Forms will need to be completed and returned to school by Friday 23 February.

[Year 9 Options Parents' Presentation](#)

[Year 9 Options Booklet 2024-26](#)

[Year 9 Options FAQs](#)

Year 13 Parents' Evening

Our Year 13 Parents' Evening will take place next Thursday 1 February from 4.00 – 6.45 pm. The appointment booking system opened for bookings yesterday evening, so if you haven't yet made an appointment, you can do so by clicking on the link below. Full details about the evening and how to book and attend appointments can be found in the [letter sent home](#).

[Click here to book appointments](#).

Holiday Cycling Course

Life Cycle UK is running a free Level 3 cycling proficiency course over half term for students in Years 7 to 9 at Backwell School. Please see the attached flyer for more details and QCR code to book.

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 – 26 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

West Side Story

'*West Side Story*' tickets are selling fast; Friday night is almost sold out, so if you are planning on coming, please book early to avoid disappointment! Performances 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](#).

Leavers' Balls – Dates for your diary

We have had a few enquiries recently about this year's Year 11 Ball. We are pleased to let you know that the ball will take place on Monday 1 July 2024, whilst the Sixth Form Leavers' ball will take place on Friday 5 July. Further information about both events will follow in due course.

LSP Vacancies - Part-time / Term-time job opportunities

There are a number of vacancies within the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) that may be of interest for those looking for a position within the local area. With 30 primary and secondary schools the LSP has a number of opportunities including those which are part time and/or term time only. Roles include:

- Premises Assistant/Caretaker (term time only)
- Learning Support Assistant/Learning Partner (various roles)
- Central Team and CPD Administrator (term time only)
- SMSA (Lunchtime Supervisor) (part time, term time only)

For more information, including how to apply, and to see the full list of job opportunities within the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, visit our [vacancies website](#).

School Attendance ...

Did you know ... Attendance is important for more than just attainment. Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing. #AttendanceCounts

www.twitter.com/Backwell_School

www.facebook.com/BackwellSchoolNS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 30 January	<p>Student Council meeting, 8.50 am in the Conference Room</p> <p>GCSE Music trip to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Event</p> <p>A level History trip to Berlin parents' meeting</p> <p>French Exchange Parents' Meeting</p>
Wednesday 31 January	A Level Sports Science trip , to University of South Wales.
Thursday 1 February	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 6 February	Year 11 P&R trip to Sacred Places, Bristol
6 – 9 February	<p>Whole school production of '<i>West Side Story</i>'</p> <p>Performances at 7.00 pm in the main school theatre.</p> <p>Tickets on sale now via Your Box Office.</p>
Wednesday 7 February	Association for Language Learning Sixth Form Lecture
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 and INSET day
19 – 21 February	A Level History trip to Berlin
Tuesday 20 February	Students back at school
Wednesday 21 February	Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active (9C & 9D)

	GCSE and A Level Music, Drama and Performing Arts trip to see 'Wicked' at Bristol Hippodrome Formula 1 in Schools Regional Final
Thursday 22 February	Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active (9F & 9G) Year 11 Parents' Information Evening: Revision and Exams
Friday 23 February	Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active (9H & 9I) Deadline for submission of Year 9 Options Forms
Monday 26 February	Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active (9E)
Wednesday 28 February	Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active (9A & 9B)
Thursday 29 February	Year 11 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 29 January](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 11 BTEC Music Practice Component 3](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students studying BTEC Music Practice



Backwell School

**February half term
Level 3 for year
groups 7 – 9
Free!**

Bikeability Holiday Courses

Unlock your child's cycling potential!

Cycling confidence, road safety, and planning skills –
taught by Life Cycle's qualified, DBS-checked instructors.

Scan to
book



Book now!

<https://bit.ly/48Ai378>

Registered Charity Number: 1077575



**Active
Travel
England**