



2 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

On Thursday, all year groups at Backwell enjoyed a 'West Side Story Showcase'. In the Theatre, pupils were shown a selection of musical extracts from the show along with talks from a number of the cast and crew, who explained what a fantastic – but challenging – experience this had been.

The Showcase was a great innovation from our Performing Arts team. It whetted the appetite of those who are coming to the performances next week: it gave a wonderful taste of the production for those in younger years who are less likely to attend the show proper; and it gave an insight for all into the fulfilment that can be gained by pursuing aspects of Dance, Drama and Music.

If you are coming to West Side Story by car next week, please note the different roadworks in place locally and allow travel time. On the Wednesday and Thursday nights, Wessex Water are doing work which will directly affect Station Rd. However, they have assured us that access in and out of school via Meadow Close will remain possible throughout.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the production next week: there are a small handful of tickets still available through [Your Box Office](#)

Best wishes

Jon Nunes
Headteacher

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MESSAGES

Entry to Backwell Sixth Form Interviews

The Sixth Form Team and Mr Nunes will be interviewing students that have applied to Backwell Sixth Form next Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 February. Students should have been informed of their individual meeting time and location by their tutor and it has also been set as an assignment on FROG. Please remind your child to check that they know when their interview is, to bring their latest report if possible and to be prepared to discuss their subject

choices - they do not need to be worried about the interview. Offer letters will be sent to students early next term.

Non-school uniform day

Next Friday 9 February, is a non-school uniform day in aid of Childrens' Hospice South West and students will be able to wear their own clothes in exchange for a donation towards this charity. As we have done previously with Children in Need, we are now offering the option of donating online via the following ParentPay Shop webpage, where you will find the donations item lower down the page:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=9784>

The minimum donation for our non-uniform charity days is now £2. We have made that change partly because ParentPay Shop charge an administration fee for using the service and partly because the suggested donation of £1 had remained unchanged for many years. This remains a voluntary contribution and one advantage of the online system is that whether and how much families contribute is not public to pupils.

We would encourage parents to donate online, however if you still prefer to make a cash donation, your child can hand it in to Reception on the day.

Environment Committee Clothes Swap Event

Did you know that 92 million tonnes of textiles waste are produced every year. So that's why the Environment Committee at school are hosting a second-hand clothes swap at Backwell. The clothes swap will be taking place on Wednesday 28 February in the main theatre at lunch time. Students can drop off any spare or unwanted clothes and exchange them for other items that have been donated.

The drop off point will be in Reception and open from the 5 - 25 February. All clothes must be dropped off before tutor time. Clothes need to be brought in in a plastic bag with the student's name, tutor group and the number of items on a piece of paper inside the bag. A maximum number of 10 items of clothing per person can be donated. All clothes need to be washed and of a good quality. Please no swimwear, underwear or socks, as we are not able to accept these.

The number of items donated equals the maximum number of items the student will be able to take out of the clothes swap. Clothes can also be purchased for 50p per item with all profits being donated to the Wildlife Trust for adopting a hedgehog.

National Measles Alert ...

The UK Health Security Agency has reported an increase in measles across the country. There are no recent cases reported in North Somerset, but it's important to make sure you and your family are protected in case it spreads here. Measles can have serious and sometimes fatal consequences, so please make sure your child is up to date with MMR vaccinations. Check

your child's Red Book or with your GP surgery if you're unsure. For more information about measles visit <https://www.nhs.uk/measles/>.

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some people. You are very unlikely to get measles if you've had both doses of the MMR vaccine or you've had measles before. Measles symptoms to be aware of include:

- high fever
- sore, red, watery eyes
- coughing
- aching and feeling generally unwell
- a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

Anyone who thinks they have measles are being advised to stay at home and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice.

For more information about measles, see the [nhs.uk/measles](https://www.nhs.uk/measles/) website.

West Side Story ... *"Tonight, tonight, won't be just any night!"*

If you are coming to see West Side Story next week, please remember to bring some cash along with you to the performance to purchase a programme and enter the fabulous raffle we have. We are fundraising towards purchasing top of the range radio mics for the Performing Arts department at Backwell School.

We are hugely grateful to all of the wonderful companies who have supported us so far with our fundraising, by offering raffle prizes, or advertising in our programme. Some of the fantastic raffle prizes on offer include:

- £25.00 voucher from FED
- Marco Pierre White – Afternoon Tea for Two from Cadbury House
- £12.00 Coffee and Cake Voucher from Heaven in Backwell School
- 2 x tickets to see 'Starter for Ten' on Monday 04 March 2024 from Bristol Old Vic Theatre
- Hot Stone Massage from Penny's Beauty Retreat
- 10 x Online Live Pilates Classes from Fit2drop
- £25.00 Voucher from The Salt & Malt
- A Portable Heater from Backwell Motors
- 1 x Strength & Conditioning Session from Elise Ball
- Tea/Coffee & Cake for Two from Coates House, Nailsea
- 1 x Bottle of Red and 1 x Bottle of White Wine from The Rising Sun
- 1 x Floral Bouquet Voucher – From Kimberley's the Florist
- 2 x Bottles of Gin from Somerset Distillery
- Nutrition Consultation from Root & Renew
- Bottle of Pink Champagne from PC Dial, IT Consultancy in Nailsea

Raffle tickets are £1.00 each (in cash) and can be purchased at every performance. If you are unable to attend the performances next week, but would like to purchase a raffle ticket or two, please email mailbox@backwellschool.net

The draw will take place at the end of all performances and winners will be notified the following week. Best of luck!

Lost Property

There currently is a large amount of unclaimed lost property in the racks outside Student Services, including a lot of uniform and PE kit ... all unnamed. If your child has lost anything, please ask them to come to Student Services to reclaim their property. Anything of value, such as glasses, purses/wallets, jewellery and phones, are held in the PA's office. Any items that remain unclaimed by the end of next week will have to be disposed of over the half term holiday in preparation for the next term.

School Run Drop-Off

Please may we remind parents/carers that cars are not allowed on school site to drop off or collect their children at the start or end of the school day, this helps to ensure a much safer environment for our students. Please encourage your child to walk to and from the train station car park or use the public parking by the Spar in Backwell.

We would also ask that you do not block driveways or access points to neighbouring properties. It can be very frustrating for local residents when access to their properties is affected or the smaller local roads become very congested.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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

Clubs Booklet

There is a [new clubs booklet](#) available for Terms 4 - 6 which can be found on the website. The booklet will be distributed to Years 7 – 9 early next week. Most clubs are drop in sessions. There are a few paying clubs that will be available on ParentPay on a first-come, first-served basis and will go live on ParentPay on Monday at 4.00 pm.

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.

Something to celebrate!

Please take a moment to read about a couple of our recent successes on the football field!

[Year 7 Boys' Football](#)

[Under 12 Girls' Football](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 6 February	Year 11 P&R trip to Sacred Places, Bristol
6 – 9 February	Whole school production of ' <i>West Side Story</i> ' Performances at 7.00 pm in the main school theatre. Tickets on sale via Your Box Office .
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 Berlin trip parents' information evening presentation
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 5 February](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

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

[Year 11 GCSE Art Textiles Exam](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 Art Textiles students



CODING CLUB

Inspiring the next generation of coders and makers



Coding with Python

Improve your coding skills with Python in a fun and safe environment.

You will learn the fundamentals of Python programming using professional tools.

Suitable for students in Years 7-11, including those studying for GCSE.

Term 4 - IN PERSON

WEDNESDAYS after school from 5 - 6 pm

Hangstones Pavilion, Yatton BS49 4HS

For more information and to register visit:

<https://codingbug.co.uk/coding-with-python-club/>

Term 4 - ONLINE

MONDAYS after school from 5 - 6 pm

For more information and to register visit:

<https://codingbug.co.uk/code-in-python/>

codingbug.co.uk

Email: info@codingbug.co.uk or call 07909 226520



facebook.com/codingbug/



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!

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