



9 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Tonight is the last night of Backwell School's production of *West Side Story*. I would like to pay tribute to the fabulous achievements of all those involved by sharing with you some of the messages I have received following the first three performances this week:

*"I have just got home from watching your stunning performance of West Side Story and had to write to say a huge well done...Your students were exceptional from start to finish and every single one of them lived and breathed their role...If there is ever an argument for why the Arts are so important, that was it."*

*"As a new Year 7 parent this was my first experience of seeing a full school production and to say I was blown away is an understatement. I'm not sure what my expectations were before seeing it but whatever they were, the performance far exceeded them. Everything about it needs congratulations; The acting, singing, set design, music, lighting and staging etc. I kept having to remind myself that I was watching a school production rather than a professional show in a theatre. I can only imagine how hard all the students and teachers and other volunteers have worked to put it on and everyone should feel incredibly proud of what they have delivered."*

*"What a fabulous production. I could have been in the West End. I am proud to be part of Backwell. There is so much talent and dedication but also fun. Everyone looked like they were so happy playing their parts."*

*"Hours of hard work by the students and their production team, but what an incredible outcome."*

*The leads were all amazing and their singing was stunning, again that's hours of work by all involved to get the standard that high. Fabulous set, props and costumes, and a well organised tech and stage team all contributed to make such a great show. Very well done to everyone involved! So impressive!"*

*"I came to watch the performance of West Side Story and was so impressed. The quality of the performance was incredible, and the musicians were amazing. I know that staff have to put in a huge amount of work for these productions, but it is really appreciated."*

Best wishes

Jon Nunes  
Headteacher

## MESSAGES

### West Side Story .... Last performance

If you are coming to see the final performance of *West Side Story* tonight, please remember to bring cash for the raffle; unfortunately, we can't take card payments and some folk were disappointed last night. The draw will take place at the end of tonight's performance and winners will be contacted soon after if they have won a prize.

### Inset Day

A reminder that Monday 19 February will be an Inset day and school will be closed to students, so their first day back after half term will be Tuesday 20 February.

### Environment Committee Clothes Swap Event – Wednesday 28 February

As mentioned in our email bulletin last week, our Environment Committee will be running their Clothes Swap event on Wednesday 28 February. This will take place at lunchtime in the main theatre. Students will be able to exchange any spare or unwanted clothes for other items that have been donated.

Clothes can be dropped off in Reception before tutor time from the 5 - 25 February. They need to be 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.

### 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 – 9 February 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)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 19 February	First day of Term 4 and INSET day
19 – 21 February	<a href="#">A Level History trip to Berlin</a> <a href="#">Berlin trip parents' information evening presentation</a>
Tuesday 20 February	Students back at school
Wednesday 21 February	<a href="#">Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active (9C &amp; 9D)</a>  <a href="#">GCSE and A Level Music, Drama and Performing Arts trip to see 'Wicked' at Bristol Hippodrome</a>  Formula 1 in Schools Regional Final
Thursday 22 February	<a href="#">Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active (9F &amp; 9G)</a>  <a href="#">Year 11 Parents' Information Evening: Revision and Exams</a>
Friday 23 February	<a href="#">Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active (9H &amp; 9I)</a>  Deadline for submission of Year 9 Options Forms  <a href="#">Year 11 Parents' Evening booking system opens</a>
Monday 26 February	<a href="#">Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active (9E)</a>  <a href="#">German Exchange Information Evening</a>
Wednesday 28 February	<a href="#">Year 9 Wild and Well trip to Mojo Active (9A &amp; 9B)</a>  Second-hand Clothes Swap at lunchtime in the main theatre
Thursday 29 February	<a href="#">Year 11 Parents' Evening</a>
Tuesday 5 March	Careers Fair: 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm in school
Thursday 14 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Friday 15 March	Red Nose Day and Non-School Uniform day <a href="#">Deadline for ordering Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies</a>
11 – 15 March	Year 10 Trial Exams

Monday 18 March	AS Trial Exams Year 11 Additional trial exam - Maths
18 – 25 March	French Exchange – French students in Backwell
Tuesday 19 March	Student Council Meeting
Tuesday 26 March	Year 9 MenACWY/DtP vaccinations Spring Concert at 7.00 pm in the main theatre
Wednesday 27 March	Last day of Term 4
Thursday 28 March	Inset Day – School closed to students
Friday 29 March – Friday 5 April	Ski trip to Folgarida

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 19 February](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 13 Key Dates](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 students

[Year 12 Key Dates](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 12 students

[Year 11 Parents’ Information Evening: Preparation for Exams: Thursday 22 February](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

[Year 11 Parents’ Evening: Thursday 29 February](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

[Year 11 GCSE PE Practical Exams – Important Dates and Information](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 GCSE PE students

[German Exchange Information Evening: Monday 26 February](#) – Parents/Carers of students taking part in the German Exchange

[Year 7 Enrichment Week: Monday 24 to Friday 28 June](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

[Year 11 Leavers’ Hoodies](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students