



15 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

### **School Uniform**

Over the next two weeks, we will be reinforcing with students the principles behind our uniform policy, our expectations and our procedures when correct uniform is not worn.

At Backwell we believe that uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of the school. It can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline and helps to ensure that all pupils feel welcome and are treated fairly.

As with all school rules, we are determined to enforce uniform rules consistently and fairly. In this, we always keep in mind the vast majority of pupils who follow uniform rules completely and who want to see the rules equally in place for others.

Please click on the following link to read about our uniform in full, [Backwell School - Uniform](#). However, I will outline below some of the particular issues we are currently dealing with:

Trousers: As well as the school skirt, pupils have the option to wear plain black tailored trousers. In order to keep prices down, our policy means that school trousers can be bought from any supplier – but please be aware that some stores unhelpfully place inappropriate items in their ‘school’ sections. Please note that leggings, joggers, or any other stretchy fabrics are not permitted at Backwell.

Jumpers and hoodies: Pupils can wear the school jumper and, if they wish, a coat. However, any other jumpers or hoodies are not allowed. Like all uniform rules, this applies equally to travelling to and from school.

Jewellery: Our policy allows a watch and, if the pupil wishes, a maximum of one pair of earrings (stud or sleeper) in the ears and/or one stud in the nose. These must be removed for PE/Sports activities. No other facial piercings, spacer-style, ‘dangly’ or spiked earrings are allowed. No necklaces, rings, or bracelets. Students will be asked to remove any form of jewellery that is not allowed.

Please can we ask parents and carers to re-familiarise themselves with the Backwell uniform code and support us? We are timing this ‘push’ on uniform to allow families time over the Easter holidays to purchase or find garments if necessary.

Thank you.

Jon Nunes  
Headteacher

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## MESSAGES

### Year 13 Leavers 2024

We are delighted to be able to confirm details for our **Year 13 Leavers Ball on Friday 5 July**. Please see [Year 13 Leavers Ball on Friday 5 July 2024](#) for details. This information has also been emailed to all Year 13 students today. If your child would like to go to the Ball, please purchase their ticket via ParentPay; your child must submit their menu choice separately via the Microsoft Form link which was also emailed to them today. The deadline to purchase tickets and for students to submit menu choices is **midday on Friday 26 April**.

Just a reminder that the **Year 13 Leavers Hoodie** is also available to purchase via ParentPay. Please see [Year 13 Leavers Hoodie](#) for details. The deadline to purchase hoodies and for students to submit their choice of colour, size and optional name is **midday on Monday 25 March**.

### Backwell School's Olympic Torch Relay

With the summer Olympic Games in Paris next year, the PE department would like to create Backwell School's very own Olympic Torch Relay. We have several small inflatable torches that we would like students and staff to take all over the country, or world, and take a picture of themselves holding the torch. For example, pictures at various locations around the UK such as famous landmarks, sporting events, concerts, or anywhere in a different country. Staff and students have already taken these to many far-flung locations around the world!

If you think you may have a photo opportunity over the Easter holidays and would like to take a photo with the torch somewhere, please see Mr Moore in the PE Department/Sixth Form.

### Students competing in a sport at a representative level

As part of our annual Sports Awards Evening, we like to acknowledge the sporting achievements of our students both inside and outside the school gates, many of whom take part in sports outside of the traditional school curriculum. We would, therefore, be very grateful to hear about any student who is competing in a sport, or representing a team, at District Level or higher. Please email details, including a photo of them in action, to Adam Moore at [amoore@backwellschool.net](mailto:amoore@backwellschool.net)

### Spring Music Concert - Tuesday 26 March

A reminder that the music department's spring concert will take place on Tuesday 26 March starting at 7.00 pm. The evening will be a showcase for our choirs and instrumental ensembles and will feature performances from students from Years 7 to 13.

Tickets, priced at £5 for adults and £3 for concessions, are available to buy from Your Box Office via the following link : [Buy tickets here](#).

### Knife Angel - St Giles Trust : a free webinar on County Lines awareness

[St Giles Trust](#) is working in conjunction with [Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership](#) to deliver a **free** County Lines awareness session to parent and carers in North Somerset. The session is

being held on **Wednesday 8 May from 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm**. This is a **virtual event** and will be delivered on Zoom.

More information about the session, together with details on how to register for the session can be found either via the QR code on the poster attached, or via the following link:

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

### 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 – 15 March 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)

### Comic Relief

Today we held a non-school uniform day in aid of Comic Relief! If you haven't yet had a chance to donate towards this worthy cause, you can do so by clicking on the link below. All monies will go direct to Comic Relief. The minimum donation for our non-uniform charity days is now £2. Thank you.

[Comic Relief 2024 \(parentpay.com\)](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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
Monday 25 March	<a href="#">Year 11 GCSE Drama Showcase</a>  <a href="#">Deadline for ordering a Year 13 Leavers' Hoodie</a> (midday)
Tuesday 26 March	<a href="#">Year 9 MenACWY/DtP vaccinations</a> <i>Deadline for consent 9.00 am on Friday 22 March</i>  <a href="#">Spring Concert at 7.00 pm in the main theatre</a>

Wednesday 27 March	Last day for students - non-school uniform day in aid of <a href="#">Bridges for Communities</a>
Thursday 28 March	Last day of Term 4 Inset Day – School closed to students
29 March – 5 April	Ski trip to Folgarida
Monday 15 April	First day of Term 5
Tuesday 16	Year 12 Product Design trip to Artichoke School of Furniture
19 – 20 April	<a href="#">Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award practice expedition</a>
19 – 27 April	German Exchange students in Backwell
22 – 26 April	Year 12 Trial Exams
Thursday 25 April	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Friday 26 April	<a href="#">Year 13 Ball</a> – Deadline for selecting menu choice
Saturday 27 April	<a href="#">Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award</a> route planning day at school
Wednesday 1 May	<a href="#">Year 10 GCSE PE/Sports Studies trip to Mendip Activity Centre</a>

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 18 March](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 13 Leavers' Ball: 5 July 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 students

[Sports Studies trip to Mendip Activity Centre: 1 May 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 Sports Studies students

[Year 7, 8 and 9 Reluctant Readers](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 7, 8 and 9



**FREE!**

**SOS+**  
SERVICE

# WEBINAR SESSION

# COUNTY LINES

for Parents/Carers in North Somerset  
as part of Knife Angel

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**  
**5:30pm-7:00pm**

Our gang and county lines parents' session consists of speakers with lived experience within the criminal justice system to unpack and explore the realities and consequences of county lines, gang involvement, and serious youth violence.

Perspectives from previous perpetrators and runners/transporters, combined with relevant case studies, aid audiences in gaining an authentic and credible understanding of this complex and cross cutting issue.

The session will help parents and carers to identify the signs and triggers that a child or young person might be involved in county lines and gain an understanding of how to appropriately respond to such indicators.

Register below:

Scan the QR code  
or [click here!](#)

Meeting will be held on Zoom.



For more information:

[binky.kennard@stgilestrust.org.uk](mailto:binky.kennard@stgilestrust.org.uk)

**St Giles**

Turning a past into a future

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