



28 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

It was great to see many of you attending the Spring Music Concert on Tuesday evening. We enjoyed the range of musical genres we've come to expect, from 16th Century Madrigals to 21st Century Pop-Punk. The confidence and talent of the pupils continues to amaze – from Year 7s asking Mr Clarke if they could debut their (amazing) band to a Year 13 presenting a performance of her self-penned (beautiful) string quartet composition. Congratulations to all those who took part and also to our fabulous Music team and instrumental teachers.

Please can I ask parents and carers to use the Easter holidays to ensure that pupils are fully equipped for school when the new term begins on Monday 15 April? Two weeks ago, I wrote to you about the importance of school uniform: [here's a link to our uniform rules](#): the aspects most likely to need an 'update' over the Easter break are appropriate school shoes and trousers (not leggings!).

I'm also including a link to an [equipment list \(see page 7 of the document\)](#): we expect all pupils to be ready for learning when they arrive at school and this list explains what they should have with them every day at school. When students arrive without the necessary equipment this can have a significant negative on their learning and can interrupt the learning of others. Thank you for your support.

Thank you.

Jon Nunes
Headteacher

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MESSAGES

Year 12 Trial Exam Week: 22 - 26 April 2024

Trial exam timetables have been sent this week to Year 12 students to their school email addresses and also to parents with the email address they have registered with the school.

If anyone has any difficulty accessing their e-timetable, please contact exams@backwellschool.net for support.

Thank you.
Backwell School Exam Team

Aspens Caterers Price Increase

Aspens, our catering provider, are committed to providing nutritious menus, catering for a wide range of dietary preferences while also ensuring good value for money and using locally sourced produce. However, after two years of frozen prices they have taken the difficult decision to increase the cost of our school meals. From 1 April 2024, the cost of a school meal deal will increase to £2.65 (currently £2.45). All other prices will increase by 8% and [a complete list can be found here](#). These new prices reflect necessary adjustments to cover continued high food inflation and increasing operating costs.

The school's till system defaults to a daily spend cap of £5. Please be reminded that this cap can be adjusted upwards or downwards on request from a parent/carer. Please email the school if you would like this amended for your child. Free school meal and pupil premium allowances will be adjusted in the system to reflect the price increases.

We want to reassure you that this decision was made after careful consideration, and we understand the financial concerns this may raise for some families. If your circumstances have changed, you may be entitled to free school meals. To find out more please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. Please be assured that your application will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, and it will not affect any other benefits you may be receiving.

Year 9 Vaccination Catch-Up Clinics

Sirona Healthcare, North Somerset's school nursing team, will be running some catch-up clinics for those Year 9 students who did not receive their Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations earlier this week. You can book an appointment via: [Sirona care & health \(sirona-cic.org.uk\)](https://sirona-cic.org.uk)

If you have any queries, please contact the Immunisation team directly on 0300 1245515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

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 – 28 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

29 March – 5 April	Ski trip to Folgarida
Monday 15 April	First day of Term 5
Tuesday 16 April	Year 12 Product Design trip to Artichoke School of Furniture
19 – 20 April	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award practice expedition
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	Year 13 Ball – Deadline for selecting menu choice today
Saturday 27 April	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award route planning day at school
Monday 29 April	The Great Big Dance Off competition
Wednesday 1 May	Year 10 GCSE PE/Sports Studies trip to Mendip Activity Centre

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

[Year 7 Runwell Introductory Letter](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 7 students

[Year 8 Parents' Evening: 25 April 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 8 students

[Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Training Weekend: 19 – 20 April](#) – Parents/Carers of students taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme