



26 April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Many of you will have been shocked this week by news reports from a school in South Wales where a student and two members of staff were attacked by a student. Thankfully, such incidents are extremely rare in this country. Nevertheless, I thought it would be appropriate to share with parents and carers how we prepare for such an event. We have a 'Critical Incident Policy' which details how we would respond to a range of unlikely, but possible, threats. This policy has been reviewed and staff trained in our last INSET Day at the end of March. We will be spending time in tutor sessions over the next two weeks in explaining our approach with pupils, including demonstrating the sounds that would be played on our 'tannoy' system.

Congratulations to our Year 12 students at the end of their Trial Exam Week and the very best of luck to students in Years 11 and 13, some of whom begin elements of their actual examinations next week. Year 13 students studying Art, Photography or Textiles have their examination time while all students in Year 11 and 13 taking Modern Foreign Languages undergo their speaking exams. Good luck, bonne chance, viel glück and ¡buena suerte!

Best wishes

Jon Nunes
Headteacher

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MESSAGES

Important Exam Information below – Please read ...

Year 11 GCSEs - Final Exam Information

With the exam season starting in just under two weeks' time, parents/carers of students in Year 11 were sent an important letter yesterday regarding the final arrangements for the exam period. Please click on the following link to read the letter:

[Year 11 Final Exam Arrangements](#)

Further information can be found in the [Examination Information Booklet 2024](#).

Summer 2024 Exam Information

Exam timetables for Summer 2024 have been emailed this week to all students undertaking examinations this May/June, via their school email addresses, and to their parents via the email address they have registered with the school.

Exam information, including guidance notes for the Exam Portal, can be found on the school website - [Backwell School Exam Information 23-24](#).

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

Thank you.

Backwell School Exam Team

Year 11 Ball

Just to let you know, communication about the upcoming Year 11 Celebration Ball will be emailed to parents/carers of Year 11 students in the early part of next week. This will include information on how to purchase tickets, dress code and behaviour expectations. In the meantime, please keep the evening of Monday 1 July free!

Enrichment Week 2024

We are in the final stages of Enrichment Week planning and would like to thank you for the payments and information requested so far. Whilst the Year 7 payment plan is now complete, there is still one more payment remaining in April for the Year 8 and Year 9 trips. Please log in to ParentPay and check that you are up-to-date with your payments this month.

Lastly, if you haven't already, please complete the following online forms which are essential to the logistics of the week:

Year 9 forms:

Student Essential Information - <https://forms.office.com/e/sFA6dZBXT8>

Behaviour Agreement – <https://forms.office.com/e/Ez2yp0PpuV>

Year 8 form:

Behaviour Agreement – <https://forms.office.com/e/Ez2yp0PpuV>

Year 7 forms:

Student Essential Information - <https://forms.office.com/e/sFA6dZBXT8>

Behaviour Agreement – <https://forms.office.com/e/Ez2yp0PpuV>

Interested in studying Chemistry at university?

If you are interested in studying Chemistry at university, you are invited to take part in a University of Bristol Chemistry department 'Materials Chemistry' online session after school on Thursday 2 May. It will take place from 3.15 - 4.15 pm here at school in S13.

The session is aimed at students in Years 9, 10, 11 and A level Chemistry students. Please let Dr Hancock know by email to be registered for this opportunity -

ahancock@backwellschool.net

The session will:

- Link materials chemistry to real life applications and current research at the University.
- Show students how information they learn at GCSE links to topics in higher level qualifications/ongoing research.
- Give students an opportunity to ask current Bristol students questions about studying Chemistry at university.

The session will be on Zoom.

You will have access to your phone or a laptop to make use of tools such as Mentimeter, allowing you to ask anonymous questions to the presenters and Student Ambassadors. There are likely to be a few schools per session.

School Lunch Spend Limit

Further to our message in the parents' bulletin sent on 27 March regarding the increase in the cost of school meals implemented by our caterers, Aspens, we have had a few queries about the spend cap on the till system. We would just like to remind parents/carers that the school's till system defaults to a daily spend cap of £5. This cap can be adjusted upwards or downwards on request from a parent/carer. Please email the school on mailbox@backwellschool.net if you would like the spend limit amended for your child.

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 April 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

Saturday 27 April	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award route planning day at school
Monday 29 April	The Great Big Dance Off competition Year 10 Geography field trip to the Quantocks (Mr Stubbs and Mr Sills' groups)
Tuesday 30 April	Year 10 Geography field trip to the Quantocks (Mrs Whitehouse and Mr Hooker's groups) Year 12 Product Design workshop at Artichoke School of Furniture
Wednesday 1 May	Year 10 GCSE PE/Sports Studies trip to Mendip Activity Centre
Friday 3 May	Year 10 Geography field trip to the Quantocks (Mr Sales and Mrs Turner's groups)
Tuesday 7 May	Year 12 Product Design workshop at Artichoke School of Furniture
Wednesday 8 May	Student Council Meeting Start of Exam season
Tuesday 14 May	Year 12 Product Design workshop at Artichoke School of Furniture
Thursday 16 May	French Exchange parents' meeting, 5.30 pm
Tuesday 21 May	Year 10 GCSE PE trip to Bath University Year 12 Product Design workshop at Artichoke School of Furniture Final day for Year 13
Wednesday 22 May	First day of study leave for Year 13 students Year 12 Business Studies visits to Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Conference at UWE
Thursday 23 May	Final Day for Year 11
Friday 24 May	End of Term 5 Non-school uniform day (fundraising for the BSA)

	First day of study leave for Year 11 students.
24 – 25 May	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award final expedition
Monday 3 June	First day of Term 6

For further trips and events, please see the [‘Calendar’ page](#) on the school website.

Quick link to [Parents’ Handbook 2023-24](#).

School Run Drop-Off

Please may we remind parents/carers that cars are not allowed on school site to drop off or collect students at the start or end of the school day; this helps to ensure a much safer environment for our students. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Something to celebrate ...!

Three of our students were part of the Avon Schools’ Sports Hall team which competed in the UK Sports Hall Championships recently. You can read all about it on the [News page of the school website](#).

Vacancies at Backwell School

There are a couple of support staff vacancies at Backwell School that may be of interest for those looking for a position within the local area. Roles include:

- Assistant Pastoral Leader (Part Time, term time only)
- Communications and Governance Officer (Part time, plus 6 days in the holidays)

For more information about the roles, and details on how to apply, please visit our [vacancies website](#).

LETTERS HOME

[Sixth Form Bulletin for week commencing 22 April](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 11 Final Exam Arrangements](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

[A Level French Oral Exams week commencing 29 April 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 students in Miss Young’s A Level French class

[GCSE French Oral Exams week commencing 29 April 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students in Miss Young’s GCSE French class