



WELCOME to

SIXTH

FORM

WELCOME TO THE CROAK!

For our first edition as 'The New Croak Team' we've decided to make this guide to help new students looking to join Backwell Sixth Form life, as well as those moving up from lower school. We hope it will help you can see all the opportunities on offer for you during your Sixth Form experience!

Make sure to keep an eye out for our next edition in term 1

The Croak Team

Committees

At Backwell, the students have a large say in what happens in and around school. This is mostly run by the Sixth Form committee. Each tutor group has two representatives who volunteer to partake in weekly meetings. During these meetings, a variety of topics are discussed: from student feedback, to plans for fundraising events like dress-up days and even in the planning of the end of school ball. Everyone has a role, with sub-committees focused on different aspects of school life such as feedback, events and student voice. Our aim is to ensure that students have a say in their academic lives.

As of this year, the sports committee has become integrated into the Sixth Form committee but as a student body, we are hoping to expand and make a separate sports committee to help plan events such as house matches, charity games and the paarlauf.

Diversity

At Backwell Sixth Form, diversity and inclusion are some of our central values. The diversity committee plans and carries out events and opportunities to raise money and awareness for important social issues both at Backwell and further afield. The committee is particularly important in terms of working to make the Sixth Form a more welcoming place for all. We aim to put on a campaign every full term and support a variety of causes in doing so. Joining the committee is great for UCAS applications, CVs or even just to feel like you're doing good in your community!

Charity

Backwell Sixth Form's Charity Committee raises donations and brings fun in the form of dress-up days, sports matches and festive activities! We aim to promote a range of local, national and international charities and we always want to hear suggestions for event ideas. What we need even more is upcoming Year 12s as members: we will happily welcome anyone who cares about charity, is eager to help in the wider school community or anyone needing an extracurricular on their UCAS application.

Volunteering

Being a part of Backwell Sixth Form offers multiple opportunities for volunteering, that help you gain the skills needed for future plans and are a valuable part of UCAS applications. When you become a student, you are expected to get involved with volunteering activities both in and outside of school. When it comes to outside of school it's completely up to you, whether it's a local shop or a charity of your choice, you have free rein to get involved with whatever you'd like. Inside of the Sixth

Form there are multiple opportunities. You can help with younger year groups and put yourself forward for tutoring subjects you're interested in, benefitting both yourself and additional students. Alternatively, you can help with organisation for vaccinations, which are offered to younger students, and tours that are offered to Year 6 students at the start of the school year, where you can show them around and answer their questions about the school. Some volunteering is more long term, such as the Peer Educator Programme, where you can deliver a series of lessons to Year 7 students about taking care of their mental health throughout their time at Backwell.

Peer Educator Scheme

The Peer Educator Programme is run by Mrs Hobbs every year and is available to all Year 12s. It focuses around taking part in a series of lessons that educate you with the skills needed to help students in Year 7 understand how to improve and maintain a positive wellbeing throughout their time at Backwell and beyond. You then take what you've learnt in these lessons, not just about assisting young people with mental health but safeguarding within lessons and provide a series of tutor time lessons to an allocated tutor group. The project teaches valuable skills and with the help of Mrs Hobbs and your Year 7 tutor you are able to learn and provide help to students who need it, whilst building a rapport with the younger students that make them feel supported and understood throughout their time at Backwell. The opportunity allows you to gain skills for the future as well as benefiting UCAS applications.

Clubs

Rollo is in Year 12 and has started his own badminton club!



My first year in Backwell sixth form has been very fun. I've found myself getting involved and branching out into new areas I otherwise wouldn't have explored.

This is mainly thanks to the enormity of support from the staff and the creativeness amongst the students.

Being a badminton enthusiast, I wanted to play inside of school. However, at the time, badminton club didn't exist. I therefore voiced my idea to the sixth form staff. They helped streamline the idea and ensured that it was set up within weeks.

As well as my monumentally successful badminton club, there is a variety of clubs all run by students. These include sixth form band, basketball club, and of course The Croak. All these clubs and more (detailed below!) will be available from September, when the dates and times will be made available by your tutors and in the Sixth Form bulletin.

Getting involved in the clubs has made sixth form that extra bit more fun. It's helped me make more friends and it also looks great on CVs!

Christian Union

The Christian Union is for everyone who is a Christian or has interest in the Christian faith. Every week on a Thursday lunchtime, we read the Bible together and pray, but don't get intimidated! It's a super relaxed environment and we aim to be loving and welcoming always.

Debate Club

In debate club, we aim to increase our logic, persuasion and communication skills. Each Friday we meet up and debate a topic. This club spans all year groups with a diverse range of opinions. Debates are held on whether cats are better than dogs and over whether classical music is the best genre. There's a debate and a space for everyone.

Other Opportunities



One of the great things about Backwell is our Sixth Form productions. Not only do they provide creative freedom, but it's so fun to watch something you created come together and be a success. Every year our Sixth Form runs a show which is chosen and run entirely by students with all profits we make going to a charity of our choice.

Last year our show was Chicago which not only was such a fun experience to partake in, but it was also a great success raising £2606.74 for Macmillan! This year it will be Footloose - it's a perfect opportunity for you to get involved and make friends with people you never thought you would. It doesn't matter if you have drama experience or not as it's all for a bit of fun, and you can get involved in any capacity whether it's designing and making the set, being a stagehand, being a lighting/sound tech or being in the show itself.

Make sure to look out for info on auditions!

2024 Sixth Form Production



CHICAGO

Gabblers



An experience like no other, Gabblers is an after dinner speaking competition held at the Bristol Hotel. A representative from each nearby school attends 6 dinners, and at the end of half of them, they will give a four-minute speech. This speech is in front to an audience of around 40 people and is from a given title. This is all practice for the full Grand Final where you speak in front of over 200 people about a randomly assigned topic. Not only is the food delicious, but you get to meet many amazing people from all sorts of schools in the local area and get to practice your speech crafting and performing skills.



Application is to Mr Feven, and to apply to be the candidate for Backwell you'll have to write a speech on a given title. Mr Feven then chooses the best written speech and that person goes forward as Backwell's candidate.

Not only did I have lots of fun, but it helped me to become more confident and a better performer. Plus, I got to wear a pretty dress!

NEW STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

On my first day of Sixth Form, I was completely new to the school - no one from my old school had chosen Backwell as their further education, and everyone seemed to have their own friend groups set in stone. I was initially terrified of going to a school where everyone was a stranger to me, but I found that everyone was really welcoming, and I was soon able to create friendships by joining committees and participating in the Sixth Form production. Overall, I found joining Backwell School to be the best decision I could've made and would recommend it for new students!

School Trips



Subject Trips

If you're a history student, you have the opportunity to travel to Berlin to aid with your NEA research on the Holocaust. For Geography students there is the opportunity to go on school trips for field research in which you will spend a week going to different places to learn different skills to apply to your Independent Geographical Inquiry such as interviewing people around Bristol Harbour and to understand how and why the coast developed the way it has at Porlock. Business students take a day trip to a local business to experience each aspect of running a business at Cadbury House. Physics students get to spend a day at Hinkley Point learning about the nuclear power station.

Gold DofE

There is also the opportunity to take part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award (regardless of if you've done the previous ones!). As part of the award, you will need to complete volunteering; develop a skill; partake in a physical activity/sport; complete a 5-day residential (for example Tall Ships or a First Aid course). You will also go on a 4-day expedition, relying completely on yourselves and camping in the wilderness – this could take place on Dartmoor or the Black Mountains!

In Sixth Form, there are school trips for everyone. A ski trip is run each year for all abilities to experience skiing in the Italian Dolomites as a break from schoolwork.

The Ski Trip



Day In The Life Of A Student

*Textiles, Media Studies,
English Language and
EPQ*

8:40 - Arrive at school and head straight to tutor

9:05 - Go to the textiles classroom for double free and work on textiles coursework – I'm currently working on my personal investigation project on fairytales (I spend most of my frees in there using the many resources the department has available)

10:45 - At break meet my friends in the common room and grab a diet coke from the canteen

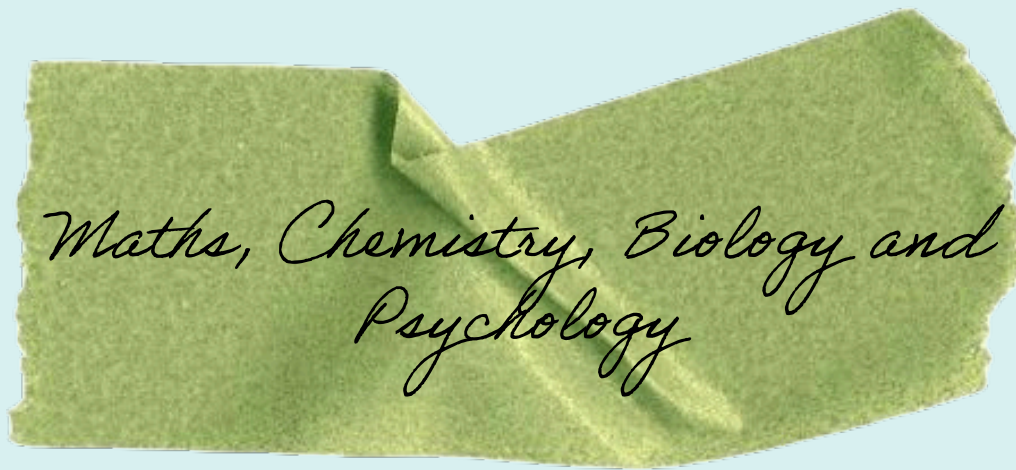
11:10 - Media double lesson where I'll work on my magazine in photoshop – it's part of my coursework and all the photos, text and design have been made by me

12:50 - At lunch, I go to a peer educator meeting to discuss what I'm doing with my tutor group next week

1:30 - Textiles lesson, continue working on my project

2:20 - English language lesson, analysing style models for the NEA (coursework)

3:10 - Go home!



8:30 - Arrive at school and chat to my friends in the common room

8:45 - Spend tutor time tutoring younger students in maths

9:05 - Double Psychology – we're doing the memory topic in preparation for a test on it next week

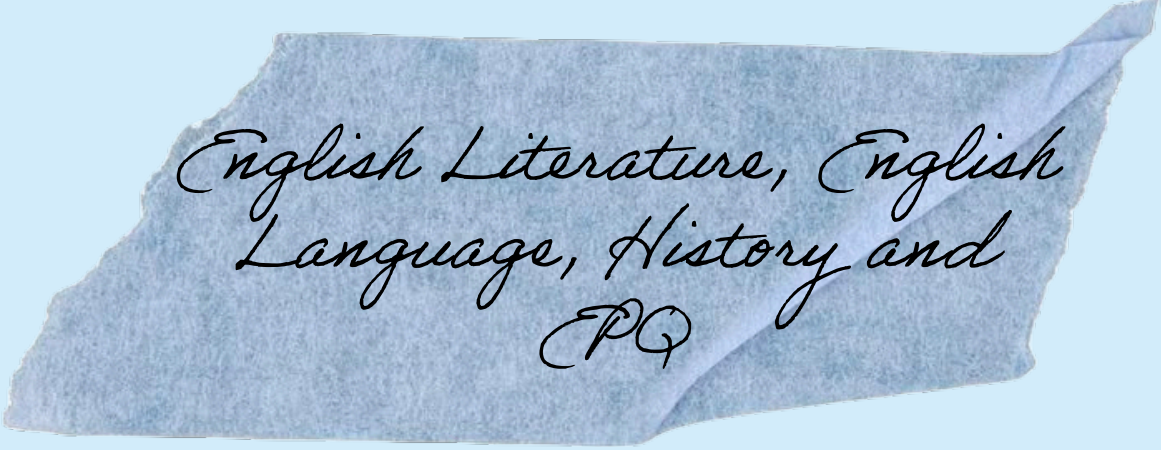
10:45 - Head students meeting, discussing plans for the school year ahead with Miss Haywood

11:10 - Double Biology – a practical lesson, where I'll do the practical in a small group and then we'll have to write it up in our practical booklets

12:50 - I'll use my lanyard to leave the school gates and go out and get food!

1:30 - Maths subject study, where the teacher leaves us work to do and we complete it on our own

2:20 - As I have a free period 6, I use my lanyard to scan out of the school again and go home!



*English Literature, English
Language, History and
EPQ*

10:45 - As I have home study privileges (from term 6 in Year 12) I arrive at the beginning of break and sign in in the foyer of the Sixth Form block

11:10 - English lit double – we're currently studying pre-1900s poetry,, so I'll spend the double annotating a poem

12:50 - Sit on the field at lunch (provided the weather's good) with all my friends

1:30 - History lesson – learn and make notes about Mussolini and Fascist Italy

2:20 - EPQ lesson in the computer room, typing up my 5000-word report with all the research I've collected over this year

13:10 - Go home!

Our Last Words To You...

Life at Backwell, while it may seem similar to lower school, has a supportive teaching team as well as many opportunities to get involved with our different committees, clubs and events including house matches, fundraisers and dress up days. To some people Sixth Form may look like a stepping stone to move onto bigger and better things, or something to be apprehensive or nervous about, but I found this not to be the case. Not only have I met and become friends with many more people but have also joined in with lots of new things including our sixth form production, multiple committees and extra curriculars including Gabblers, Debating and tutoring. The freedom provided to you in sixth form also means that even though you're still at Backwell, it feels entirely different. My biggest advice would be to not stress! You'll enjoy it and should make the most of the next two years you have.



