



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin

Friday 12 September 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends of Backwell School,

Welcome Back!

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to extend the warmest of welcomes to you all. Whether your child is joining us in Year 7, entering the Sixth Form, or continuing their Backwell journey, we are delighted to have you with us as part of our school family.

There is always something special about September: a new rhythm, fresh faces, and renewed purpose. Indeed, it has been a real pleasure to see the school return to life, with staff and students reconnecting, routines settling, and a tangible sense of excitement and ambition filling our corridors and classrooms. This year promises to be both purposeful and inspiring.

For me, being my first real taste of life at Backwell, I have been overwhelmed by the welcome I have received from the young people and staff that make our community such a special place. The standards the students have set in the first week of Term 1 have been exceptional, and the challenge for them all is to keep it up! One of my key messages to students in assemblies this week has been to focus on our world class basics, as doing the little things so well make all the difference to their school experience, not least attending school every day and getting to lessons on time with their uniform looking first-class. One of my other key messages has been to grasp one of the many opportunities that are on offer as our clubs and societies kick into action from Monday – my challenge to them all is to experience at least one of these before Christmas and I urge you to encourage your child to do just this.

As a community we have really hit the ground running with us welcoming Year 10, 11 and 12 parents into school for the parent support evenings this week. The evenings gave us the opportunity for you to further understand the journey your child is on, the support that is in place for them here at Backwell and what the year has in store for them. We look forward next week to our Main School Open Evening on Thursday for current Year 6 students where we get the chance to show off and celebrate 'all things Backwell'. If you know people who have a child in Year 6 then please encourage them to come along! Please remember that we finish school at 14:20 on Thursday to allow for the site to be set up for the evening. We also look forward to welcoming our Spanish Exchange students from Colegio Vera-Cruz in Northern Spain who will join us at Backwell from Tuesday. As a final reminder, please be

reminded that Friday 19th September is an INSET Day for staff and the school will be closed to students.

Please do enjoy this first newsletter of the new school year, there is much to read and take in and so much to celebrate such as our national equestrian success for Team Backwell over the summer.

Finally, starting a new school year is always a significant moment for students, for families, and for the whole school community. Thank you for your ongoing support, your trust, and your partnership. We are excited to be working alongside you to help your children thrive as together *'we are Backwell'*.

With warmest regards,



Will Penny
Headteacher



Backwell Equestrian Team Success!

The whole Backwell School Equestrian team made it to the national British Showjumping finals in August 2025. We had a team in the 90cm (Lola B, Hattie M & Briony W), Hattie M as an individual at 1m and Holly M as an individual at 60cm and 70cm. Holly did exceptionally well to qualify in huge classes as these heights are so popular for schools.

The atmosphere was huge for the children and horses at Stoneleigh Park in Kenilworth, with temperatures hitting 34 degrees, loud music, flags and over 50 children in each class – the fastest and the best the UK had to offer. Our Backwell girls really did do us so proud.

Here are the results:

90cm team (Lola, Briony & Hattie): 4th place nationally for Backwell School, with Hattie M joint 1st amongst the teams.

1m: Hattie M 7th nationally for Backwell School.

70cm: Holly M team 4th for Bristol & Somerset.

Congratulations team Backwell. What an incredible set of results!



OTR Mind Aid

OTR is a charity that provides mental health support. Their Mind Aid programme is a 6-week course for young people age 11-19 who are struggling with stress, anxiety, low mood or depression. The next online course will be starting Thursday 18th September, 16:30 – 17:45, running for six weeks. This group is for any young people who live, work, study or have a GP address in North Somerset. Please discuss this provision with your child if you feel they could benefit from participating. They can sign up via the website here: [Mind Aid - OTR - North Somerset](#).

'County Lines' Webinar for parents and carers

St Giles Trust are inviting parents and carers to join a webinar session about gangs and county lines to help them identify the signs that a young person may be involved and to gain an understanding of how to respond. The sessions take place on Tuesday 11th November and Thursday 27th November, for more information and booking details please see the flyer attached to this bulletin.

Future INSET Day and Open Evening

We have one more INSET day this term on Friday, 19 September. The day before, on 18 September, the school closes early to allow staff to prepare for the annual Open Evening. Students will be released on that day at 2:20pm

Could it be Magic – New book release from Fay Keenan

The new novel from Fay Keenan (or better known to us as English teacher and Year 13 tutor, Mrs Jessop), is now available!

Be swept away in the next instalment in Fay Keenan's wholesome hug-in-a-book

Brambleton series! Perfect for fans of Milly Johnson, Cathy Bramley and Veronica Henry.



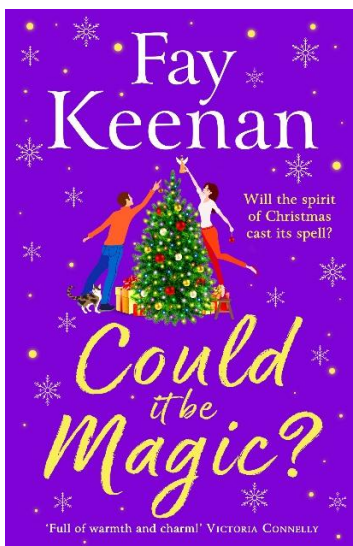
'All the lovely festive feels with a delectable romance and delicious food thrown in - bliss!' - Celia Anderson

Thea Ashcombe, a fiercely independent single mum, is about to face her toughest challenge yet: Christmas on a shoestring. As the festive season looms, Thea's feeling a little like their old family Christmas tree - tired and lacking in sparkle!

Nick Saint, the quiet and devoted farm shop manager in the idyllic village of Lower Brambleton, has secretly liked Thea for years. Trapped in the friend zone since high school, he's given up hope of Thea seeing him as anything more than reliable 'Saint' Nick... But when Thea steps into Nick's world to help at the bustling farm shop, something unexpected happens. Suddenly, her sensible head is spinning with a schoolgirl crush she never saw coming! Is it just the enchanting glow of Christmas, the twinkling lights playing tricks on her mind?

As they work side-by-side preparing for the magical Christmas market, and as Nick's thoughtful gestures – like a perfectly fresh Christmas tree appearing at her door – begin to melt her defences, Thea starts to wonder – maybe all she really needs for Christmas... is Nick! ✨

Prepare for a heartwarming and enchanting tale of unexpected romance, festive magic, and the surprising ways love can blossom when you least expect it! ❤️ ✨



Creative Writing Club – Friday lunchtimes

Mrs Jessop also runs a creative writing club every Friday lunchtime for any students who want to write and discuss/learn about the publishing experience. This is a great opportunity for our future authors to gain valuable insight and join a club of other like-minded students, plus... have some fun!

Mrs Jessop looks forward to welcoming new members.

Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - 12 September 2025](#)
- [Year 13 Key Dates](#)
- [Year 10 Parents Information Evening Slides](#)
- [Year 11 Parents Information Evening Slides](#)
- [Year 12 Parents Information Evening Slides](#)

Letters Home This Week

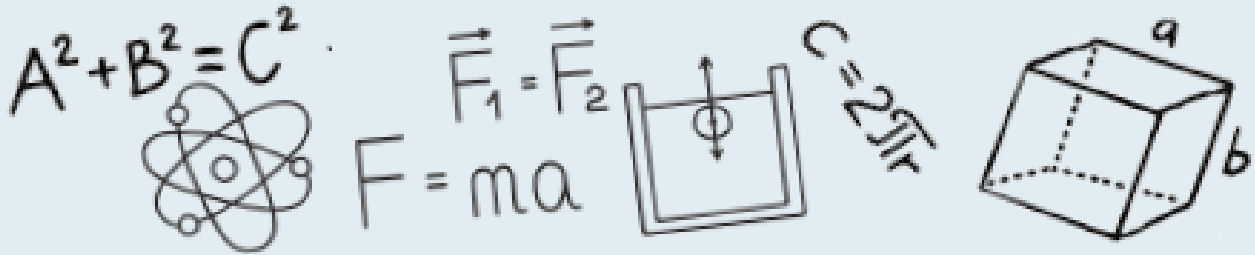
- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)
- [Clubs Booklet Autumn-Winter 2025](#)
- [7M2 Tutors - Sept 2025](#)
- [Year 13 Parents' and Carers' Information Evening - Wednesday 17 September](#)
- [Year 11 Textiles main coursework project](#)
- [Year 10: GCSE PE T-shirts - Sept 2025](#)
- [Year 11 Geography - WideWorld Magazine subscription](#)
- [Year 12 - A Level Geography](#)
- [Year 13 A Level Geography](#)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 16 September	Photography day – Years 7,10 and 12 (and other new starters)
Thursday 18 September	Early finish for students – 2.20pm Backwell School Open Evening – 5:00pm-7.00pm
Friday 19 September	Inset Day – School closed for students

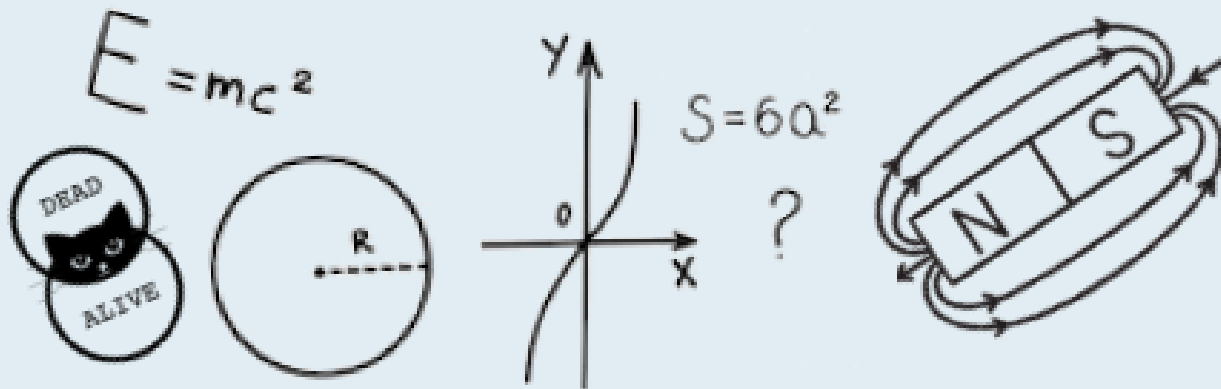


Events, Clubs and Course in our Community




STRUGGLING WITH MATH OR PHYSICS?

TUTORING OF ALL LEVELS



Charlotte (Charlie) Gardner

 07305663163

 charlie@auxillio.co.uk

5 Years Tutoring Experience; 3rd Year Bsc Physics



Codingbug

Inspiring the next generation of coders and makers



Python club

Learn to code in Python while building games, apps, and real-world projects. Master problem-solving skills that boost creativity and confidence. Explore AI and machine learning, including coding with powerful language models — skills that open doors to future careers.

Suitable for students in Years 7-11

ONLINE PYTHON CLUB

MONDAYS after school from 5 - 6 pm

Scan to book



IN PERSON PYTHON CLUB

WEDNESDAYS after school from 5 - 6 pm at Hangstones Pavilion, Yatton

Scan to book



codingbug.co.uk

Email: info@codingbug.co.uk or call 07909 226520



facebook.com/codingbug/

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS



THE TEENAGE YEARS

Sessions for anyone parenting children aged 11 to 19

Dates:

Thursdays 9th October - 13th November
8.00pm - 9.30pm

Via Zoom (details upon registration)

To register your interest or book a place contact:

Jane Wheeler

janewheeler1@icloud.com

07790 647968



Common-sense, jargon-free information
and ideas to help you to engage with your
children and boost your relationship



16 to 17 Saver Railcard

Simple, student-friendly travel

Designed just for 16- and 17-year-olds, this Railcard unlocks up to 50% off a wide range of train tickets – making travel to school, college, friends or weekend adventures easier, cheaper and more exciting. It's their route to freedom, fun and unbeatable value all year round.



For 16 and 17 year olds



Valid for one year or until their 18th birthday (whichever comes first)



50% off standard Anytime, Off-Peak, Advance and Season tickets



Great for leisure study and everyday travel



Can be downloaded to your phone via the Railcard app or used as a physical card



Buy via [GWR.com/railcard](https://www.gwr.com/railcard)





Scholar season ticket

The smart way to do term-time travel

This handy ticket gives students unlimited travel between two stations, with up to 1/3 off fares and potential annual savings of up to £200. Simple, flexible and great value, it's a smart move for stress-free school travel.

-  **For children aged 5-15**
-  Up to 33% off train fares
-  Enjoy unlimited travel between two chosen stations
-  Valid weekdays, evenings and weekends
-  Available termly or annually
-  Child Photocard required (request when ordering or available from ticket offices - just add a passport-sized photo)

Sample scholar pass prices

From	To	Annual	Term
Nailsea and Backwell	Yatton	£334.30	£111.50
	Bristol Temple Meads	£423.60	£141.00
	Weston-super-Mare	£457.00	£152.50

To purchase your scholar season ticket, **call 0345 766 0228**





Raising teens? We want to hear from you!

What would help you talk to your teenagers about healthy relationships?

Share your experience by filling out this short survey



In partnership with:



November 2025

Tuesday 11th - 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Thursday 27th - 5:00pm - 6:30pm

SOS+
SERVICE

COUNTY LINES

WEBINAR SESSION

For Parents & Carers

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.

For more information and to secure your place, please email vrp@n-somerset.gov.uk specifying which date you would like to attend.

St Giles

Turning a post into a future

Education@stgilestrust.org.uk

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